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HERITAGE PRESERVATION

Inside India's race for the GI tag

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal has announced a target of 10,000 GI tags by 2030, but do their beneficiaries understand what the tag can do?

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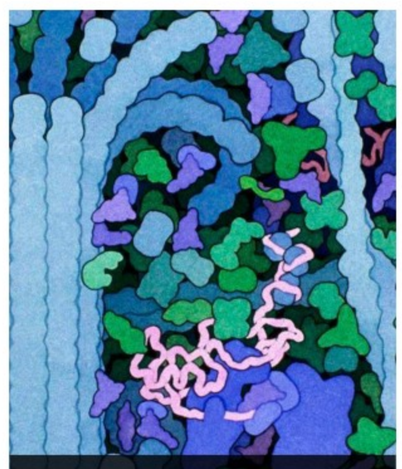
Noor Wali Mehsud: Pakistan's most wanted jihadist

PROFILES » PAGE 15



Google's AI for drug discovery is a win for scientific research

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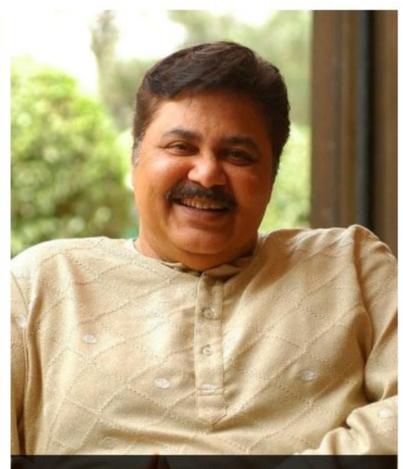

Veteran Bollywood actor Satish Shah dies at 74

NEWS » PAGE 11

NEARBY

My father will complete his full term: Yathindra

MYSURU
Congress MLC Yathindra on Saturday seemed to add fuel to fire by stating that his father and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will complete his full term "under the present circumstances". » PAGE 7

Plan to tackle flooding on the cards

BENGALURU
A fresh Zonal Drainage Master Plan (ZDM) for Bengaluru is on the cards under the World Bank-aided Water Resilient Project being undertaken by the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA).» PAGE 5

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MAGAZINE » 8 PAGES

Cong. seeks probe into LIC's Adani investment

Opposition party alleges misuse of public savings; it reiterates demand for Joint Parliamentary Committee investigation into 'Modani MegaScam'; no immediate response from the Adani Group

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday demanded an inquiry by the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of Parliament into what it described as a "disturbing misuse" of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) funds to benefit the Adani Group.

The party alleged that officials of the Union Ministry of Finance and the NITI Aayog pushed through a proposal in May to invest nearly ₹33,000 crore of the LIC's funds in the Adani Group to "signal confidence" in the conglomerate, and "encourage participation from other investors".

The allegations follow an exposé in *The Washington Post*, which cited internal documents to report how the LIC invested money in the Adani Group after a U.S. court had indicted business tycoon Gautam Adani in a bribery allegations case.

There was no immediate response from the Adani Group or the government on the Congress's allegations.

However, referring to *The Washington Post's* report, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge asked why Prime Minister Narendra Modi was "squandering" the hard-earned money of 30 crore LIC policyholders.

"The real beneficiaries of Direct Benefits Transfer are not the common people of India but rather Mr. Modi's close friends. Does a common salaried middle class person, who saves every penny to pay the LIC premium, even know that Mr. Modi is using his hard-earned savings to bail out Adani?" Mr. Kharge said in a post on X.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 9

Bond controversy

LIC was allegedly pushed to buy Adani bonds after fraud charges, a claim denied by the public sector insurer

- *The Washington Post* alleges that the Department of Financial Services instructed LIC **to buy around $3.4 billion worth of bonds** issued by Adani Group firms
- This was allegedly **to shore up investor confidence** in the companies after the U.S. indictment of senior Adani Group executives and business partners
- Claims of any instructions were denied by the **insurance major**

'Investments in Adani firms made independently'

NEW DELHI
Life Insurance Corporation of India said its investments in Adani group companies have been made independently and in accordance with its board-approved policies. "Department of Financial Services does not have any role in decisions." » PAGE 12

Pedestrians walk on a waterlogged street in Tirupati after a flashflood on Saturday. K.V. POORNACHANDRA KUMAR

Season's first cyclonic storm likely to cross A.P. coast in two days

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The depression hovering over the Bay of Bengal is expected to gradually gain strength as a cyclonic storm, likely to be named Cyclone Montha, by Monday. It is likely to cross the Andhra Pradesh coast around Kakinada by Tuesday night, with maximum wind speeds of 90-100 kmph, gusting to 110 kmph, the India Meteorological Department said.

The weather system will begin to cause intense rainfall over north Tamil Nadu from Sunday. The Regional Meteorological Centre, Chennai has issued an orange alert indicating heavy to very heavy rainfall for Chennai, Ranipet and Tiruvallur on Monday, as the season's first cyclonic storm intensifies and moves closer to the Tamil Nadu coast.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 9

Rider died before bus ran over bike in Kurnool crash

Marri Ramu
KURNOOL

Investigators have found that the motorcycle involved in the Kurnool bus tragedy in Andhra Pradesh had a pillion rider, who survived. The survivor said the motorcycle had lost balance on the National Highway and the rider succumbed to injuries much before the private sleeper bus hit the bike.

At least 19 people on the Bengaluru-bound private sleeper bus, operated by V. Kaveri Travels, were killed in the early hours of Friday on National Highway-44 at Chinnatekur near Kurnool. Forensic experts and scores of police personnel, who examined the accident spot, had inferred that the bus rammed the bike lying on the road following which fire emanated.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 9

Smart cultivation

Terrace cultivation, also known as step farming, in Senapati district of Manipur on Saturday. This method slows down runoff, thereby reducing erosion, and increasing arable land in mountainous or hilly regions. RITU RAJ KONWAR

State to mandate extra emergency doors in buses

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

After the Bengaluru-bound private sleeper bus tragedy in Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh which claimed 19 lives in the early hours of Friday, the State government is set to issue a circular mandating enhanced safety measures in all passenger buses, including an additional emergency exit door and more fire extinguishers.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy said the Transport Department would issue a circular on Monday, directing private and State-run bus operators to ensure the installation of extra emergency exit doors.

"Currently, most premium and sleeper buses are fully enclosed, with only two main doors one near the driver's seat and another for passengers. Some models have an emergency exit at the rear, but that is not sufficient. We have decided to make it mandatory for all buses to have an additional emergency door for quicker evacuation during accidents," he said.

Mr. Reddy pointed out that in many premium buses, especially sleeper coaches, windows were designed to double as emergency exits by breaking the glass using hammers placed beside them. However, he said that during panic situations, passengers may not be aware of such options.

Ramalinga Reddy

"In tragic incidents, passengers tend to rush toward the main exit, leading to chaos and delay. Multiple emergency doors will make evacuation quicker and safer," he said.

Inflammable material

The Minister added that the department would also make it compulsory for all buses to carry multiple fire extinguishers as part of precautionary safety measures. "At present, most buses have only one or two fire extinguishers, usually kept near the driver's seat. The new rule will ensure that extinguishers are placed at multiple accessible points within the bus," he said.

Mr. Reddy noted that similar safety rules were first introduced when he held the Transport portfolio in 2013, following another horrific bus fire on the Bengaluru-Hyderabad National Highway that killed 45 passengers. "We had then brought in several safety norms, but there is a need for more proactive implementation. This circular will ensure that precautionary measures are strictly enforced," he said.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 5

College students to help monitor traffic violations

Chetan B.C.
BENGALURU

To curb traffic violations near educational institutions, the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) will roll out a new feature on the ASTraM app, enabling college students to report offences occurring around their campuses.

The BTP will partner with the Aarohan Foundation, which runs the 'Police Marshals' initiative aimed at conducting drug awareness campaigns among college students. The foundation currently operates in 100 colleges with 14,000 student marshals, who will now also participate in the BTP's traffic violation monitoring drive.

Karthik Reddy, Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic), told *The Hindu* that the foundation's network of 14,000 students represents a large and valuable resource that can be mobilised to promote traffic awareness and help identify violators.

"We will add a 'Police Marshals' option on the ASTraM app, which onboarded students can use to upload traffic violation photos," Mr. Reddy said.

Data-driven approach

While this initiative will enable the police to fine violators, it will also help gather specific data to improve traffic management and planning.

For instance, if a particular stretch near a college frequently reports wrong-way driving, police can analyse the reasons behind the trend and take corrective measures, in addition to penalising habitual offenders.

A source from the ASTraM team explained that when a police marshal logs into the app, a dropdown menu will list various types of violations. The marshal can select the relevant category and upload a photo.

Each uploaded image will record details such as the educational institution, exact location, type of violation, and the violator's identity, creating a comprehensive database. This data will help the police study traffic violation trends around educational institutions and their frequency, aiding in the identification and resolution of underlying problems.

Vinay A.G., director of the Aarohan Foundation, said that to create enthusiasm among students, a leader board displaying the top colleges that report the most violations will be introduced, along with mementos as incentives.

The foundation is already working with the city's Law and Order police to promote drug awareness and offer student counselling, along with conducting street plays on drug abuse and cybercrime. The new initiative will complement these efforts.

According to a source from ASTraM, the Public Eye app (through which citizens can upload traffic violation photos) is already integrated with ASTraM. The student marshal feature will function similarly but will be more refined and effective, as it is limited to verified student participants.

The source added that this approach is expected to receive a strong response due to its incentive-based model.

In a nutshell

- 'Police Marshal' feature to be added to ASTraM app
- The feature will include a dropdown menu listing all types of traffic violations
- Marshals can upload photos under the relevant category
- A leaderboard will display the colleges that have reported the most violations
- The collected data will aid booking violators and in traffic management and planning

Dress neat and exude discipline, DG&IGP tells police personnel

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

To improve the image of the police department, the Karnataka police chief has instructed personnel "to maintain a neat appearance and proper uniform standards". This is among the 18-point direction given by him to the rank and file.

In a circular issued earlier this week, Director-General and Inspector-General of Police M.A. Saleem said that "a well-dressed officer commands respect in society and reflects discipline and professionalism", urging ranks and file to take pride in their appearance.

In the 18-point circular, Mr. Saleem emphasised on "creating a better perception and showcasing transparency, accountability and courteousness while on duty."

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Saleem, said, "Police should not be seen as a 'force' but as a 'service'. Every officer part of the service should have discipline, be courteous and transparent," he said, while adding that the directions are also for the personnel in *mufti* (plainclothes).

The circular stated that women and children visiting stations should be treated with respect and care, and in case of inquiries, officials should refrain from summoning women to the station but should conduct inquiry at their residence in the presence of a woman police officer. The accused women should not be kept in the station at any cost beyond 6 p.m., he said, and in case of arrest, she should be handed over to the state home for women.

Mr. Saleem reminded the personnel to wear body cameras. Addressing the issue of police often turning away public saying that the complaint lies beyond their jurisdiction, the circular said that in such cases, a zero FIR should be filed at the station before being referred to the one concerned.

Festival lights: People light earthen lamps along Kartavya Path as a laser show illuminates the sky during the 'Delhi Deepotsav' at India Gate on October 18. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Pink haze: Delhiites burst firecrackers across the city during Deepavali, on October 20. The Supreme Court had ordered that only green firecrackers should be used during the festival. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Messy streets: Firecracker packets litter streets in Delhi following the celebrations. While the festival brings joy to households, the civic indifference shown by people leaves much to be desired. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Sparks fly: Families and friends gather to celebrate Deepavali in New Delhi. However, the festival also brought with it a big dip in air quality. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Fireworks in the sky, cloud over air data

Delhi's pollution soared on Deepavali night but dropped quickly with stronger winds and warmer conditions; missing DPCC data raise concern over transparency; city recorded a post-festival Air Quality Index of 351, which is considered 'very poor'

As Delhiites burst firecrackers well past the 10 p.m. deadline set by the Supreme Court for Deepavali night, air pollution shot up 70-100 times the World Health Organization limits in many parts of the city, but fell quickly afterward, according to government data.

The relatively faster decline in pollution was due to higher wind speeds and temperatures, according to experts. This is because Deepavali was in October this year, rather than in November, when the winter would be stronger, leading to slower wind speeds and lower temperatures.

However, the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) data on air quality for the intervening night of Monday and Tuesday had several missing data points when pollution was at its peak. This led experts and activists to question the authenticity of the data, with many suggesting that actual pollution levels were likely higher than what was officially reported.

On Tuesday (October 21) morning, Delhi was the "most polluted" major city in the world, according to IQAir's (a Swiss air quality technology company) live data for over 120 cities.

Meanwhile, Delhi's 24-hour average Air Quality Index (AQI) was 351 (very poor) at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, as per the Central Pollution Control Board's daily official bulletin, which is considered a day's official AQI. A higher AQI means an increase in air pollution. The air quality on Tuesday – the day following Deepavali – was better than in 2020, 2021, and 2023, but worse compared with 2022 and 2024. Unlike in many previous years, the city did not witness a prolonged smog episode after the festival.

Although the Supreme Court had allowed only the use of green firecrackers in Delhi, traditional firecrackers were also available in the city in the run-up to Deepavali.

(Text: Nikhil M. Babu)

Youthful spirit: Children watching the fireworks light up the night. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

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From Farming Fields to Defence Fortresses Uttar Pradesh Scripts India's Next Growth Story

Visionary leadership, investor-friendly reforms and people-first policies are propelling Uttar Pradesh toward a $1 trillion economy and a Viksit Bharat by 2047.

Under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Uttar Pradesh is undergoing a transformational journey from restoring law and order to building world-class defence and industrial infrastructure, and from expanding education and social welfare to designing a Digital Agriculture future. The state's progress is measurable, inclusive, and future-ready: record factory growth, massive investment inflows, defence manufacturing milestones, and wide-reaching social programmes together form the backbone of Viksit UP @2047.

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BrahMos, developed in Lucknow through the efforts of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, has become a symbol of national prosperity. Only when citizens are safe can they sleep peacefully, and the Lucknow-made missile ensures the safety and prosperity of the entire nation. I express my heartfelt gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh for this.

- Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister, U.P.

Defence & Strategic Manufacturing- Security Meets Economy

- **Lucknow BrahMos Unit:** First batch of BrahMos missiles flagged off; facility inaugurated May 11, 2025 (200 acres, ₹380 crore).
  Production target: ***100 missiles annually****, rising to 150.*
- **Economic benefit:** projected **₹3,000 crore** turnover and **₹500 crore** GST in the upcoming financial year; DG (BrahMos) presented **₹40 crore** GST cheque.
- **Make in UP:** MoU between **PTC Industries and Bharat Dynamics Ltd.** to co-design propulsion systems, guided bombs and small turbo engines.

UP'S GROWTH STORY AT A GLANCE

- **2019** – Law & Order Turnaround
- **2021** – UP-Agrees Launch
- **2024-25** – BrahMos Lucknow Inauguration
- **2025** – ₹15 Lakh Crore Investment Mark

Lucknow's land is now yielding gold- ensuring national security while driving prosperity.

- Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister, U.P.

UP Defence Industrial Corridor A National Asset

The UP Defence Manufacturing Corridor now spans six nodes - *Lucknow, Kanpur, Agra, Aligarh, Jhansi, Chitrakoot* - delivering land, infrastructure and employment.

Over **2,500 acres** allotted so far, generating jobs for **15,000+** youth and anchoring high-technology manufacturing in the heart of India.

PTC & Make in India Partnerships

PTC Industries-Bharat Dynamics MoU: collaboration for propulsion systems, guided bombs and small turbo engines; DRDO delivered LTAs for titanium castings for AMCA and KDE2 components - milestones in indigenous technology.

Why it matters:
These partnerships accelerate design-to-production cycles inside India, reduce import dependence and build high-value supply chains in Uttar Pradesh.

Industrial Revolution: Jobs, Factories, Growth

- **Record factory expansion:** *4,000 new factories in 2024–25;* total factories now exceed **27,000.**
- **Industrial spread beyond traditional hubs:** Investment has reached *Lucknow, Kanpur, Jhansi, Gorakhpur, Azamgarh, Prayagraj* and more.

- **Investments grounded:** Over **₹15 lakh crore** committed so far - with ongoing engagement from Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Europe, the Gulf and other partners.

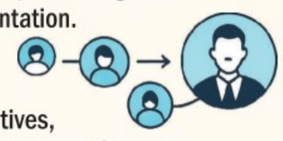
Impact: *Rapid job creation, MSME growth, increased exports and a stronger manufacturing base for an Atmanirbhar Bharat.*

Investor-Friendly Governance & Ease of Doing Business

INVEST UP RESTRUCTURING
Specialist cells for textiles, autos & EVs, chemicals, electronics, services; satellite offices in Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai, New Delhi.

- Assigned account managers for **814 Fortune 1000 companies;** 50 new MoUs signed and active talks with over 280 companies.

NIVESH MITRA PORTAL 3.0
streamlined digital processes - single sign-on, dynamic applications, AI chatbot, third-party inspections to reduce processing time and documentation.



Result: Faster clearances, transparent incentives, practical land-bank solutions and stronger investor confidence.

From Seed to Market- A Digital Leap for Farmers

- **UP-Agrees (Rs 4,000 crore):** World Bank-supported project across 28 districts to increase farmers' income from seed to market.
- **Commodity cluster approach:** red chillies (Banaras), peanuts (Bundelkhand), banana (Barabanki–Azamgarh), Kala Namak rice, green peas, urad, potatoes.
- **Fisheries target:** production on **90,000 hectares,** aimed at benefiting nearly **1 lakh families.**

Vision: From agriculture to industry-strengthening rural economies through value addition, processing and market linkages.

Green Growth - Sustainable Industry & Forest Initiatives

- **Shaurya Van (Bhatgaon):** 30-acre green belt at the BrahMos facility; **20,000 saplings** planted under the 'Ek Paid Maa Ke Naam 2.0' campaign.
- Emphasis on energy efficiency, green technology and circular processes (e.g., titanium remelting & recycling at PTC campus).

Shaurya Van
Strength with Sustainability
Defence Meets Nature

Result: Industry with environmental responsibility-jobs without cost to natural heritage

UP's journey toward $1 trillion economy

Vision 2047
On Track for $1Trillion Economy by 2030

A BG-BGE

Legal angle: The Supreme Court reversed a ban on fireworks in the Delhi-NCR to allow green firecrackers. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Dim view: Safdarjung's Tomb appears shrouded in haze, reflecting the air pollution across the capital. PTI

Water shield: Anti-smog guns are deployed at Kartavya Path to sprinkle water and curb pollution in the city after the celebrations. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Muted dawn: A cyclist slowly makes his way through morning smog near the India Gate monument a day after the festival. AP

Grey veil: Visibility was low in most parts of Delhi after Deepavali, with Noida too witnessing a haze-filled morning. PTI

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar interacting with people during the 'Walk with Bengaluru' programme at Herohalli in Bengaluru on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Shivakumar defends tunnel road project

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Amid criticism that the proposed tunnel road would benefit only the wealthy, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Saturday defended the project, saying that while it was only meant for those who pay toll, and that other solutions, including road-widening, was no longer possible in the city due to soaring property prices and compensation laws.

He further challenged MP for Bengaluru South Tejasvi Surya, who has opposed the project, to present his own action plan to decongest the city.

"This project is for those who pay toll. If they don't want this project, let them give an action plan to reduce traffic congestion in Bengaluru. As the MP of Bengaluru South, what plan does he have? Has the Prime Minister given even ₹10 as a special grant for this city's development? What steps did BJP take to control congestion when they were governing the State? Why couldn't they call tenders for garbage collection on time or widen roads and build flyovers?" the Deputy Chief Minister questioned.

Mr. Shivakumar's remarks came during 'Walk with Bengaluru' programme which was held in the West Corporation limits on Saturday.

Responding to Mr. Surya's criticism that the tunnel would damage places of historical significance, the Deputy Chief Minister said, "The tunnel will be dug underground, not outside. Why are tunnels being built in Mumbai and Delhi then? We cannot stop the project by listening to his words. I will not bow to him under any circumstances. Mr. Surya is an empty shell."

Mr. Shivakumar also said that those who could not meet him during Saturday's programme can submit their applications at the event to be held at Cubbon Park on Sunday. "I will take applications from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. People from all five corporations are welcome to attend," he said.

Slugfest intensifies between HDK and DKS over khata conversion

Union Minister terms B-Khata to A-Khata scheme 'bogus' and accuses Congress government of 'extortion'; meanwhile, Shivakumar has accused Kumaraswamy of making baseless allegations

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The ongoing war of words between Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar intensified on Saturday, with the former terming the Congress government's B-Khata to A-Khata conversion scheme a 'bogus exercise' and calling it 'daylight robbery' in the guise of reform.

Mr. Kumaraswamy appealed to Bengalureans not to pay any money towards the Khata conversion announced by the government, and declared, "I make an open appeal to the people of Bengaluru: Do not pay a single rupee for this."

Predicting that JD(S)-BJP alliance would form the government after next two years, he said that Khata conversions would then be provided 'without any cost burden'. He said, "In two years, we will get it done for you at minimal cost."

Union Minister for Steel and Heavy Industries H.D. Kumaraswamy addressing a press meet in Bengaluru on Saturday. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

Kumaraswamy has made an open appeal to the people of Bengaluru not to pay a single rupee for khata conversion

'A cruel joke'

He termed the government calling the scheme a 'Deepavali gift' a cruel joke.

"The Khata issue has existed since 1995 and fresh charges are unjustified when money was already collected earlier. People are already burdened by price rise and loan repayments. Why push them into another debt trap?" he asked.

Mr. Kumaraswamy also launched a scathing counterattack on Mr. Shivakumar, who had recently challenged him to an open debate. Listing out his own 'achievements' as a Chief Minister, Mr. Kumaraswamy claimed that while he had planned several reforms, they (Congress), along with others, had 'pulled down' his government.

The present dispensation, he said, was not capable of even filling a pothole, he said, adding that Mr. Shivakumar 'is not even fit for a debate'.

Claiming to have done much for Karnataka going beyond his ministerial responsibilities, he said, "I have already sanctioned 4,500 electric buses for Bengaluru and proposed several projects for the State." Within hours of the press meet, Mr. Shivakumar challenged the Union Minister to an open debate 'with documents in hand', accusing the Union Minister of making baseless allegations.

"What corruption is happening in B-Khata transfer? This is being done to benefit people. Currently, people do not get loans for B-Khata properties. Rectifying property documents is the 6th guarantee of our government."

"Let him come for an open debate with proof instead of making hit-and-run claims. If he has evidence, let him present it before the people of the State," the Deputy Chief Minister said.

"Let him expose whatever he wants - I will expose him too, and let people decide," he asserted, adding that he was not the one to be scared by threats.

Responding to Mr. Kumaraswamy's remark that the JD(S)-BJP alliance would form the next government in two years, Mr. Shivakumar said, "Under his leadership, the JD(S) has already fallen to 18 seats, and it will collapse to eight or nine seats in the next election."

TV artiste booked for blackmailing neighbour

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Asha allegedly forced the victim to demand a ransom of ₹2 crore from her husband

The Tilak Nagar police has registered an FIR against a television serial artiste for blackmailing her neighbour with the latter's private photos to extort ₹2 crore.

Based on the complaint filed by Parvati, 61, the police have charged the accused, identified as Asha Jois, under section 66E (intentional or knowing capture, publication, or transmission of an image of a person's private area without their consent, which occurs under circumstances that violate their privacy) of the IT act.

According to the complaint, the accused befriended the victim and became close to her, claiming that she is a TV serial actress and belongs to a respectable family from Sringeri Mutt.

According to police officials, while interacting closely with the victim, the accused learned about her marriage to the owner of the company where the victim had worked earlier.

Asha allegedly accessed the victim's phone and transferred private photographs and voice records to her phone, which she then shared with her own relatives and friends, the FIR noted. Asha started blackmailing the victim, forcing her to demand a ransom of ₹2 crore from her husband.

Are trees being felled within Lalbagh for tunnel road project? HC asks State govt.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court on Saturday directed the State government to inform by October 28 on whether there are plans to cut trees inside the famous Lalbagh Botanical Garden for the proposed tunnel road project.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C.M. Poonacha posed this question to the government counsel during the hearing on two PIL petitions that challenged the tunnel road project after it was pointed out to the Bench that there is an imminent threat of trees being felled felling inside Lalbagh as a particular area has already been cordoned off.

The project proposes construction of tunnel roads from Hebbal to Central Silk Board junction, with eight entry and eight exit points, under Build-Own-Operate-Transfer mode. FILE PHOTO

Demarcated area

Appearing for actor-director Prakash Belawadi, who is one of the petitioners, Lok Sabha member and advocate Tejasvi Surya pointed out that around 6.5 acres in Lalbagh have been demarcated and ingress and egress of the public to this area have been stopped. He also pointed out that the tunnel road would pass under Lalbagh, which has a 3,000 million-year-old Peninsular Gneiss that has been declared as a National Geological Monument by the Geological Survey of India.

Though the Bench earlier indicated that it can pass an interim order not to cut trees if there are plans to fell trees in Lalbagh for the project prior to the next date of hearing on the petitions, it refrained from passing any such order by accepting assurance from the government advocate that the information on whether trees would be felled or nor would be provided by October 27 or 28.

In his petition, Mr. Belawadi has contended that the project has been taken up in violation of the mandatory provisions of the Bengaluru Metropolitan Land Transport Authority (BMLTA) Act, 2022, Karnataka Parks (Preservation) Act, 1975, constitutional provisions, and other environmental laws. The Bench ordered the issuance of a notice to the government with regard to this petition.

On the other petition, filed by Adikesavalu Ravindra and two others, the court on September 25 ordered the issuance of a notice to the government and adjourned hearing till December 9. However, the advocates appearing on behalf of both the petitions on Saturday sought urgent intervention from the court on the issue of utilisation of Lalbagh land as the authorities recently demarcated the area for the tunnel project.

The project proposes construction of tunnel roads from Hebbal to Central Silk Board junction, with eight entry and eight exit points under Build-Own-Operate-Transfer mode.

AICTE regional office to be transformed into Quantum Computing Lab

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

T.G. Sitharam, chairman of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), has assured that the currently non-functional AICTE regional office in Bengaluru will be transformed into a 'Quantum Computing Lab'.

Speaking at the felicitation ceremony organised by Senate members of Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) at the VTU Regional Center in Bengaluru on Saturday, he stated that the university had submitted a proposal on transformation of the office into a Quantum Computing Lab and that AICTE considered it. "Quantum computing is gaining prominence and launching it in Bengaluru will benefit many," he added.

"Every year, around 1.5 million students graduate with engineering degrees in India. However, the Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) for higher education remains low. Over the past 50 years, this figure has not changed significantly. In South Korea, the GER is 96%, while in India it is 32.5%.

Now, there is a golden opportunity to improve this," he explained, advising engineering colleges to take proactive steps in this regard.

Sundar Madakshira, Chief Marketing Officer of Sinch India, spoke on the topic 'Building Professionals for the Future: The Role of Universities and Educational Institutions'.

"Learning is a continuous process and must not be forgotten. However, most employees aim to retire by age 40, and 70% of them prefer to work as hobbyist professionals. Amidst these trends, finding quality employees is a challenge. Students must build networks, which will become their net worth in the future," he said.

Local visitors have expressed shock over the vandalism, urging authorities to restore the damaged portions. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Miscreants scribble Lawrence Bishnoi's name on Tipu Sultan's palace

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Visitors who flocked to Nandi Hills during the spate of festival holidays were in for a rude shock to see the summer palace of Tipu Sultan defaced. Miscreants had scribbled the name of gangster Lawrence Bishnoi on the palace walls, exposing serious lapses in security and heritage preservation.

The construction of the palace was initiated by Hyder Ali and later completed by Tipu Sultan, to be used as a summer retreat.

Local visitors have expressed shock and concern over the vandalism, urging authorities to restore the damaged portions and ensure better protection of the 18th-century monument.

There are guides and security personnel who monitor visitors and warn them against vandalism. And though there are security and CCTV camaras installed at the site, none of them are functioning, a staff at Nandi Hills admitted.

The summer residence is situated at the entrance of the site close to Amrita Sarovara.

It is a restricted place and the staff and security are not aware of how someone climbed up to the terrace of the two-storeyed building.

A senior police officer said he would look into the matter and take necessary action. Officials from the State Tourism Department, tasked with overseeing Nandi Hills, said that the matter has not yet come to their notice and that they would look into it.

Escoms' services to be offline for some hours on two days

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Consumers across Karnataka will not be able to access the online services of all five Electricity Supply Companies (Escoms), namely Bescom, Hescom, Mescom, Gescom and CESC, from 8 p.m. on Monday to 11 a.m. on Tuesday.

This development is owed to urgent IT system maintenance. Several online services such as electricity bill payment, new connections, name change, and other related services will remain unavailable during the aforementioned period. The outage will affect both Escom web portals and third-party platforms like Bescom Mitra, Bengaluru One, and Karnataka One.

26-year-old woman dies in accident on 'poorly maintained' road; sparks outrage

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The tragic death of a 26-year-old woman in an accident on Huskur-Makali Road in Madanayakanahalli, on the northern outskirts of Bengaluru, on Friday has triggered a political storm, with Opposition parties blaming the ruling Congress government for the city's worsening road conditions.

The victim, identified as Priyanka P., died after the scooter – on which she was riding pillion – reportedly skidded on a poorly maintained road and she was run over by a speeding truck. She was commuting with her 28-year-old brother to the Madavara Metro Station when the incident occurred. Although the police have yet to confirm the exact cause of death, Opposition leaders have highlighted the recurring fatalities caused by the city's deteriorating road infrastructure.

BJP leader R. Ashok has come down on the government for the poor state of roads in the city, which is resulting in accidents. THE HINDU

They have blamed Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who has often deflected criticism by claiming that "only Bengaluru's potholes are highlighted", while other cities have worse road conditions.

Leader of Opposition R. Ashok took to X (formerly Twitter) to criticise the government, holding Mr. Shivakumar personally responsible for the repeated pothole-related deaths.

"A woman lost her life today near Huskur APMC after her two-wheeler skidded while trying to avoid a pothole. How many more innocent lives must be lost because of your government's negligence and incompetence, Mr. D.K. Shivakumar?" he wrote.

"Do you think wearing T-shirts and sunglasses for photo shoots in Lalbagh and Cubbon Park under the name of City Rounds will fix Bengaluru's pothole problem?" he questioned, referring to Mr. Shivakumar's 'Walk with Bengaluru' initiative. "You have ruined Bengaluru in the name of making it Brand Bengaluru. You should be ashamed," he added. The Janata Dal (Secular) also joined the attack, holding the Congress government directly accountable for the recurring pothole-related deaths across the State.

"How many more lives does the Congress need to lose before fixing the potholes? Innocent citizens are dying every day on cratered roads in Bengaluru and across Karnataka. The Congress government is solely responsible for this," the JD(S) said on its official handle.

Woman murdered, body dumped in auto

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 35-year-old woman was bludgeoned to death allegedly by her male friend, who later dumped her body in an abandoned autorickshaw in Tilak Nagar, a few yards away from the police station, on Friday.

A few passers-by noticed the body and alerted the police on Saturday evening.

Police said the victim, Salma, worked as a domestic help. She was in a relationship with Subramani, a garment factory employee.

CCTV footage showed them arguing before he attacked her with a blunt weapon. The blow killed her on spot. He dumped the body reportedly with his friend Senthil's help before fleeing. A manhunt is under way.

ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL
ASC CENTRE & COLLEGE
AGRAM – POST, BANGALORE-560007
Phone: 080 25550677 **website: www.apsasc.edu.in**

TENDER NOTICE

Refer our ad published in 'THE HINDU' page 2 dt 04 oct 25. Sealed tenders are invited for supply and installation of 125 KVA DG set, ATS panel and generator shed for army public school ASC C&C. Tender enquiry/form to be collected from school office after payment of ₹500/- (demand draft in favour of APS ASC C & C) till 10 Nov 2025 (0900hrs to 1200hrs). Last date to submit filled tender form is 11 Nov 2025 at 1130 hrs.

PRESIDING OFFICER/MEMBER 1
FOR SCHOOL MANAGEMENT

FORM A
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT
(Regulation 14 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Voluntary Liquidation Process) Regulations, 2017)
FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE STAKEHOLDERS OF
CNA ENGINEERING PRIVATE LIMITED

1	NAME OF CORPORATE PERSON	**CNA ENGINEERING PRIVATE LIMITED**
2	DATE OF INCORPORATION OF CORPORATE PERSON	29/06/2007
3	AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH CORPORATE PERSON IS INCORPORATED / REGISTERED	**Roc Bangalore**
4	CORPORATE IDENTITY NUMBER / LIMITED LIABILITY IDENTITY NUMBER OF CORPORATE PERSON	**U29268KA2007PTC043294**
5	ADDRESS OF THE REGISTERED OFFICE AND PRINCIPAL OFFICE (IF ANY) OF CORPORATE PERSON	No.201 Suhas, Site # 1032, 24th Main, Sector-1, HSR Layout, Bangalore, Bangalore, Karnataka, India, 560102
6	LIQUIDATION COMMENCEMENT DATE OF CORPORATE PERSON	**24.10.2025**
7	NAME, ADDRESS, EMAIL ADDRESS, TELEPHONE NUMBER AND THE REGISTRATION NUMBER OF THE LIQUIDATOR, AUTHORISATION FOR ASSIGNMENT (AFA) Validity	**CS THIRUPAL GORIGE** NO. 87, 2ND FLOOR, 21ST CROSS, 7TH MAIN, N S. PALYA, BTM 2ND STAGE, BANGALORE-560076, KARNATAKA, INDIA CELL +91 94483 84064, LL +080 79634233 EMAIL: GTHIRUPAL@GMAIL.COM IP REG. NO. IBBI/IPA-002/IP-N00016/2016-17/10030 AFA valid up to 31.12.2026
8	LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF CLAIMS	**24.11.2025**

Notice is hereby given that **CNA Engineering Private Limited** has commenced voluntary liquidation on **24.10.2025.**

The stakeholders of **CNA Engineering Private Limited** are hereby called upon to submit a proof of their claims, **on or before 24.11.2025** to the liquidator at the address mentioned against item 7.

The financial creditors shall submit their proof of claims by electronic means only. All other stakeholders may submit the proof of claims in person, by post or by electronic means.

Submission of false or misleading proofs of claim shall attract penalties.

Date : 24.10.2025
Place : Bengaluru

Sd/-
Thirupal Gorige
Liquidator

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No.: B/TRD.2025-26/19
Dated 18.10.2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Item of work	Approx. Value
[i] OHE modifications in connection with construction of AC Loco trip shed at Sir M Visveswaraya Terminal (SMVB). **[ii]** Proposal for replacing Low HT shelter of PF 7&8, provision of shelter in open area between second entry building and platform entrance including granite flooring-TRD works. **[iii]** OHE modifications in connection with Augmentation of AC Loco Trip Shed at KSR Bengaluru (SBC). **[iv]** Provision of OHE for pit line no.1 at KSR Bengaluru (SBC) yard and pit line no.3 at SMVB yard.	**Rs. 1,46,91,954.11**

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 10.11.2025

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution/Bengaluru

PUB/578/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26

Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

UNION BANK OF INDIA
(A Government of India Undertaking)
Regional Office : 2254, Kousalya, 3rd Floor, Vinoba Road, Mysuru-570005

E-AUCTION NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/ charged to the Secured Creditor, the symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised officer of **Union Bank of India** (secured Creditor) will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is basis"** on the date mentioned below, for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder to Union bank of India from the below mentioned Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s). The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit are also mentioned hereunder.

Union Bank Of India, Kanakapura M G Road Branch, Opp. Govt Maternity Hospital, Main Road, Kanakapura - 562117 Ph: 9913265424, Mail Id: Ubin0911747@unionbankofindia.bank.in

Name And Address Of The Borrower, Co-Borrower And Guarantor:
1) M/s. R.R. Polypets, Proprietor : Ashwini S. Gadasahalli Village, Shivanahalli Post, Kanakapura – 562117.
2) Mrs. Ashwini, W/o Chandru, Krishnapura Village, Garakahalli, Channapatna – 562138.
3) Mrs. Parvathi W/o Anand M N, # 303, 4th Cross, SSA Road, Kunthi Grama, 4th Block, Cholanayakanahalli, Bengaluru – 560032
Amount due : Rs. 17,35,347.55 as on 30-09-2025 with further interest, cost & expenses.
Description of immovable secured assets to be Sold: All The Part And Parcel Of Vacant Site In The Name Of **Mrs. Parvathi N,** Bearing Katha No. 388/33, Property No. 152902028008203 55, Shivanahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara – 562117, **Measuring East-West: 30 Feet, North - South : 40 feet, Total 1200 Square feet, Bounded On The East:** Site No.32, **West:** Site No 34, **North:** Site No 94, **South:** Road.

Reserve Price :
Rs. 18,87,000-00 (Rupees Eighteen Lakhs Eighty Seven Thousand Only)
Earnest Money To Be Deposited :
Rs. 1,88,700-00 (Rupees One Lakhs Eighty Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Only)

Date and time of E-Auction : Date: 28-11-2025 From 12.00 NOON to 5.00 PM (with 10 min unlimited auto extensions)
Last date for submission of EMD : On or before the commencement of e-Auction.
E-auction website- https://baanknet.com

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale and registration and login and bidding rules visit : please refer to the link provided : https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in/auction-property/view-auction-property.aspx and www.unionbankofindia.co.in

Date : 26-10-2025
Place : Mysuru

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Union Bank of India.

ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 08232-226749 ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 1800-4253795 ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್: 08232-221617
ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: www.mandyacity.mrc.gov.in ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: ka.mandya.cmc@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ನಸಮಂ/ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ವಿಭಾಗ/ಟೆಂಡರ್-45/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23.10.2025

ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಪುರಸ್ಕೃತ ಅಮೃತ್ 2.0 ನಿಧಿ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು **KTTP Act** ಕಾಯಿದೆ **1999 & 2000**ರಂತೆ, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮತ್ತು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಇ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು **KW-3** ರ ದಾಸ್ತಾವೇಜು ಮೂಲಕ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ, ಆಸಕ್ತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ:**07-11-2025 ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 5.00** ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ ಮತ್ತು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಸೂಚನಾ ಫಲಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಮತ್ತು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **www.mandyacity.mrc.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಕ್ರ ಸಂ	ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ವರ್ಗ ಮೀಸಲು
1	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT50429	108.88	OTHERS

ಸಹಿ/- ಪೌರಯುಕ್ತರು
ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ

ವಾಸಾಸಂ೦ಇ/ಮೈಸೂರು/ಶಿರಡಿಸಾಯಿ/517/2025-26

ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL
K KAMARAJ ROAD, BANGALORE-42
Tele No : 080-25581238 www.apsbangalore.edu.in
LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION – 01 NOV 2025 (1000HRS)

TENDER INVITIATION

Tender No	Description of Work
APS/340/2025-26	SS Railing 304 Grade in the corridors of school (2st Floor) Approx 1388 Rft
APS/341/2025-26	Purchase of 200 x Bench & Desk for Students for Class 9th & 10th
APS/342/2025-26	Overhead fabrication of roof top with PPGI Sheet approx. area 4700 Sqft
APS/345/2025-26	Construction of Boundary Wall at Parents' Parking Area with cleaning of surrounding area
APS/346/2025-26	Call for quotations for the sale of three old vintage school buses and one Eeco van (No APS/339/2025-26 CANCELLED)

Note: Details of the work is available in school website. Please submit sealed quotation on the envelope mentioning the No and Name of work address to ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL, KAMARAJ ROAD, BANGALORE on or before 01 NOV 2025 by 1000hrs.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that our Client has negotiated to purchase the Schedule Property from its present owner **Mrs. SHAISTA ANWAR, D/o. Mr. Anwar Noor Mohamed, who had acquired the same under a Sale Deed Dated 26-06-2015 from M/s. AISHA INTERNATIONAL GARMENTS,** represented by its POA Holder, **M/s.MACRO DEVELOPERS,** represented by its Partner, Mr. **MOHAMMED FARAAZ MUMTAZ.** The Owner represents that the Original Sale Deed Dated 26-06-2015, registered as Document **No.GNR-1-01185-2015-16** of **Book-I, Stored in CD No.GNRD107** in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Gandhinagar (Ganganagar), Bangalore has been lost / misplaced.E-complaint for loss of document has been lodged on 15-10-2025 and acknowledge has been issued bearing No.1853112/2025. If any person finds the same or is in possession of the same, may return the same to the undersigned. Any person/s having or claiming any manner of right, title, lien or interest in respect of the Schedule Property or the said lost document may intimate the same in writing to the undersigned along with documentary evidence in support of their claim **within 2 (Two) Weeks** from the date of this publication, failing which, it will be presumed that the said Document is lost and our Client will proceed with the transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Residential Apartment bearing No.301-A, **BBMP No.15/4, PID No.92-126-15/4 (E-PID No.1112786631) in Second Floor of "MACRO ORCHID"** built in Schedule 'A' Property and measuring 2063 Square Feet of Super Built-up Area along with proportionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, lifts, staircases and all other areas of common use along with Two Covered Car Parking Space in the Basement Floor with 473.83 Square Feet of undivided share, right, title, interest and ownership in Schedule 'A' Property bearing Municipal No.15, Situated at Munimarappa Block, New Ward No.62 (Old Ward No.92) of Jayamahal Sub-Division, Bangalore.

S.A.H. RAZVI & ARIF PASHA
No.60, 2 nd floor, M.M. Complex, Chick Bazaar Road, Tasker Town, Bangalore-560 051
Place: Bangalore Mob: **9845049766 / 9243132714** Dated: 26-10-2025

Your feedback will keep us Cleaner, Sharper and Bolder

Call our toll-free number
1800 102 1878
Or write to us at
customercare@thehindu.co.in

Scan the QR code to register your feedback

THE HINDU | the hindu businessline | FRONTLINE | SPORTSTAR | The Hindu Young World | THE HINDU

यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया भारत सरकार का उपक्रम
Union Bank of India A Government of India Undertaking

Harohalli Branch, Kempaiah Building, Opposite KSRTC Bus Stand, Harohalli, Ramanagara District- 562112 Contact no 9321414581
Mail Id: ubin0814580@unionbankofindia.bank

DEMAND NOTICE

Borrower/ Mortgagor: 1. Mr. Hanumanthaiah, S/o Late Kenchappa, # Property No-92, Dyavasandra Village, Harohalli Hobli, Kanakpura Taluk, Ramanagara, Karnataka-562112
Co-obligant/ Mortgagor/ Guarantor : 2. Mrs. Sunandamma, W/o Mr. Hanumanthaiah # Property No-92, Dyavasandra Village, Harohalli Hobli, Kanakpura Taluk, Ramanagara, Karnataka-562112
3. Mr. Urugaiah H M S/o Masanaiah, # 56/1, Main Road, Harohalli Hobli, Kanakpura Taluk, Ramanagar, Karnataka-562112
Sub : Notice under Sec. 13 (2) read with Sec. 13 (3) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 by **HAROHALLI BRANCH**

Loan A/c No.	Amount Due. Rs:	Date of NPA	Demand Notice Date	Description of the Mortgaged Property
145830100040412 (HLPGN)	**Rs. 1,91,004-00** (Rupees One Lakhs Ninety One Thousand Four Only)	**10-09-2025**	**08-10-2025**	All The Part And The Parcel Of Land & Building In The Name Of **Mr. Hanumanthaiah.** Bearing Property No 170/92, Situated At Dyavasandra Village, Harohalli Hobli, Kanakpura Taluk, Ramanagara, Karnataka-562112, **Measuring East To West 35 Feet, North To South 33 Feet Total 1155 Square Feet, Bounded By: East-** Property Of Smt. Jayamma, **West-** Property Of Munireddy, **North-** Property Of Hanumanthaiah,**South-** Government Road

Notice issued to you u/s 13(2) of The Securitisation& Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 by branch/me, the Authorised Officer, was sent to you calling upon to repay the dues in your loan account/s with us at your last known address could not be served. Therefore, the contents of the said demand notice are being published in this newspaper. The credit facilities/loan facilities availed by you have been classified as NPA. You have executed loan documents while availing the facilities and created security interest in favour of the Bank. The details the credit Facilities and secured assets are as under: Credit facilities availed with outstanding amount. Therefore, you, as borrower, co-borrower and as guarantor in terms of the aforesaid notice have been called upon to pay the aforesaid said amount, together with future interest and charges thereon within 60 days from the date of this publication. That on your failure to comply therewith we, the secured creditor, shall be entitled to exercise all or any of the rights under Section 13(4) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002. In terms of Section 13(13) of the Act you shall not transfer the secured assets aforesaid from the date of receipt of the notice without Bank's prior consent. Please take note of the provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Place : Mysuru
Date : 26-10-2025

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Union Bank of India

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client proposes to enter into a joint development agreement with respect to the immovable properties converted for non-agricultural purposes, situated at Kothanur Road Cross, Bannerghatta Road, Ward No. 193 - Arakere within the corporation limits of Bengaluru South City Corporation, South Zone 2 (previously within the corporation limits of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike), Arakere village, Begur hobli, Bengaluru South taluk, more fully described in the Schedule below and collectively referred to as the "Schedule Properties" from its respective owners (collectively, the "Owners"). Each of the Owners have represented that they are the absolute owners of their respective portions of the Schedule Properties having clear and marketable right, title and interest therein and that apart from them, there is no other person/s having any right, title or claim over the Schedule Properties. Each of the Owners have represented that they have not entered into any other agreement of sale/lease/license/development agreement/memorandum of understanding/arrangement etc., with any person/s with regard to the Schedule Properties and that save and except the charge created in favour of ICICI Bank by Mr. P Dayanada in respect of his portion of the Schedule Properties, the Owners have not mortgaged or created any lien or encumbered any of the Schedule Properties or part thereof in any manner. Any person/s, entity, trust, firm, HUF, institution (corporate or otherwise) having claims, demand, right, title or interest, minor's claim or any right of whatsoever nature capable of establishing such claim, demand, right, title or interest with respect to the Schedule Properties shall lodge their written objections/claims together with all documentary evidence within fifteen (15) days from the date of this notice with the undersigned. Failing to do so, it shall be presumed that the ownership and title of the Owners with respect to the Schedule Properties is clear, marketable, and free from all encumbrances of any kind whatsoever, and our client shall then proceed to complete the proposed sale transaction. Any claims or alleged interests, which are received without documentary evidence or received after fifteen (15) days from the date of publication of this notice shall be deemed to be invalid and not binding on the parties to the proposed transaction.

Schedule
Description of the Schedule Properties

All that piece and parcel of the following immovable properties converted for non-agricultural purposes, situated at Kothanur Road Cross, Bannerghatta Road, Ward No. 193 - Arakere within the corporation limits of Bengaluru South City Corporation, South Zone 2 (previously within the corporation limits of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike), Arakere village, Begur hobli, Bengaluru South taluk, Bengaluru – 560 076:

Sl. No.	Owners	Description	Extent in Square Metres	Boundaries			
				East	West	North	South
1.	**Mr. P Niranjan, son of late Mr. Y Purushothama**	Property bearing No. 1230/61/1245/102/1/17/3 and PID No. 7037630702.	506.8	Portion of property gifted to Mr. P Dayanada	Property belonging to Mr. Y Purushothama	Portion of property gifted to Mrs. Nirmala Veerendra	Kothanur Road
2.	**Mr. P Dayananda, son of late Mr. Y Purushothama**	Property bearing Bommanahalli CMC *khata* No. 1245/102/1 (previously bearing No. 17/3).	481.35	Private road	Portion of Property gifted to Mr. P Niranjan	Portion of property gifted to Mrs. Nirmala Veerendra	Kothanur Road
3.	**Mrs. Nirmala Veerendra, daughter of late Mr. Y Purushothama**	Property bearing Bommanahalli CMC *khata* No. 1245/102/1 (previously bearing No. 17/3).	414.63	Private road	Property belonging to Coronate Industries	Property belonging to N Sathyan	Portion of property gifted to Mr. P Niranjan and Mr. P Dayanada
4.	**Mr. Sathyan son of Mr.Narasimha Iyengar,**	Property forming part of V.P. *khata* No. 102/1 (previously situated in survey No. 17/3).	869.36	Road formed by the late Mr. Y Purushothama measuring approximately 20 feet and remaining portion of property belonging to Mr. Y Purushothama	Property belonging to Aromax Chemicals, V.P *khata* No. 102/2	Private property in survey Nos. 17/1 and 17/2	Property belonging to Mr. Y Purushothama

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 26.10.2025

Ms. Savitha K.G., Partner
Poovayya & Co., Advocates and Solicitors
The Estate, Level Four,
121 Dickenson Road, Bengaluru - 560 042

Plan to tackle flooding on the cards

'Bengaluru currently lacks a robust storm-water drain and sewerage network, which has been a major contributing factor its frequent flooding'

Chetan B.C.
BENGALURU

A fresh Zonal Drainage Master Plan (ZDM) for Bengaluru is on the cards under the World Bank-aided Water Resilient Project being undertaken by the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA).

However, the absence of reliable storm-water and sewerage network data and mismanagement of drain networks by various civic agencies are likely to make the task challenging for current planners and implementing authorities.

"Bengaluru currently lacks a robust storm-water drain and sewerage network, which has been a major contributing factor to the city's frequent flooding. The ZDM will not only help address existing gaps, but also assess and plan for future challenges," said a GBA official monitoring the project.

The master plan will serve as a comprehensive blueprint for managing storm-water and drainage systems across Bengaluru or within the GBA's jurisdiction. FILE PHOTO

Blueprint
The ZDM will serve as a comprehensive blueprint for managing stormwater and drainage systems across Bengaluru or within the GBA's jurisdiction. "Developing the new ZDM will involve evaluating the existing drainage infrastructure, identifying gaps and vulnerabilities, and proposing targeted solutions to enhance the efficiency and resilience of the network," a source told *The Hindu*. The exercise will include detailed mapping, analysis of rainfall and runoff patterns, and recommendations for upgrades and maintenance.

A core component of the plan will be the creation of an integrated map combining natural and man-made drainage systems, land use, and topographical features. It will also feature flood risk assessments and strategies aligned with future urban growth and development.

While the project builds on the existing IISc Bengaluru Flood Mitigation Model, the ZDM will act as an extension to it. As reported by *The Hindu* earlier, the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC) will collaborate closely with IISc and IIT Madras to implement the project. CSTEP and WELL Labs, which are providing services under a non-profit memorandum, will support the GBA in specific areas of the ZDM. In particular, WELL Labs will focus on ZDM preparation, while CSTEP will handle risk analysis.

Not the first
However, this is not the first time such a plan has been proposed. In 2022, the then Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai announced a similar initiative, prompted by the 2021 Comptroller and Auditor General of India audit on the performance of stormwater management in Bengaluru. The audit highlighted the absence of a robust policy for stormwater governance and noted that "the State government and BBMP failed to consider urban surface runoff as a water resource despite growing water scarcity in the city and State."

Four years have passed since that announcement, yet the situation has not improved. This time, however, the civic body has no choice but to act, as the World Bank will release funds based on implementation outcomes, a process known as Disbursement Linked Indicators (DLIs).

Not an easy road
Still, the task ahead for the GBA will not be easy. There is a significant data gap concerning stormwater drains and their network across the city.

Historically, different parastatal agencies have executed drainage-related projects independently, without coordination, data sharing, or documentation exchange with other civic bodies.

Many of these project files have since gone missing, an issue flagged in the CAG report. As a result, GBA must now rely on multiple fragmented sources for critical information.

According to a source involved in the project, crowdsourcing and citizen participation to gather data could be an effective approach. However, the final decision on adopting this strategy is yet to be made.

From Page One

State to mandate extra emergency doors in buses

He further stated that officials had been directed to intensify checks to prevent buses from carrying inflammable materials in the luggage storage compartment beneath the passenger cabin or anywhere in the buses. "We will not allow any compromise on passenger safety," he added.

Buses seized
Meanwhile, in a special operation on Friday, officials of the Transport Department seized over 30 private buses at the Attibele check-post on the outskirts of Bengaluru for operating without paying the mandatory Karnataka road tax.

Additional Transport Commissioner Omkareshwari said, "The buses, registered in other States, had only paid their home State taxes and were found plying commercially in Karnataka after paying just the application fee and not paying the Karnataka State Road Tax."

The official added that these buses were detained at check-posts near the Karnataka border. To ensure passengers were not inconvenienced, the department arranged Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) buses to ferry them to their destinations.

Woman killed, 4 others injured in suspected LPG cylinder blast

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

An 81-year-old woman was killed and four others sustained injuries after a suspected LPG cylinder explosion at their house in K.R. Puram on Saturday.

The impact of the explosion was so high that the house partially collapsed and three other houses in the neighbourhood developed cracks. Residents in and around Triveni Nagar were startled by the sound, which was reportedly heard up to four km.

The incident occurred at a house owned by Ramesh, who had rented it to Shekhar and his family about nine months ago. Shekhar, 55, lived there with his two children, Chandana, 22, and Kiran Kumar, 24, and his elderly mother, Akkayyamma.

The fire and emergency personnel rushed to the spot and rescued Akkayyamma from the debris while the injured were rushed to a nearby hospital. While Akkayyamma succumbed to her injuries, Chandana is critical.

According to the police, the incident occurred around 7.15 a.m. at Triveni Nagar. Akkayyamma was asleep when the roof slab collapsed on her owing to the impact of the explosion. Shekhar, Kiran Kumar, and a neighbour, Kanchana, 45, sustained injuries. Shekhar told the police that the blast occurred when a family member switched on the stove.

Gas leak suspected
The police suspect that the gas leaked and accumulated in the house, causing an explosion. The fire and emergency service personnel, police and the Forensic Science Laboratory team are probing further to ascertain the exact cause of the fire.

Union Minister Shobha Karandlaje and MLA for K.R. Puram Byrati Basavaraj visited the site.

Dharmasthala case: SIT summons four activists for questioning

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

The Special Investigation Team (SIT), which is probing into the alleged burial of bodies in Dharmasthala over a decade ago, has issued notices to four activists, Mahesh Shetty Thimarodi, Girish Mattannavar, T. Jayant, and Vittala Gowda, to appear before it on Monday.

In the notice, SIT Chief Investigation Officer Jitendra Kumar Dayama has asked the four activists to appear before him in the SIT office in Belthangady at 10.30 a.m. on Monday. This is for questioning in connection with the complaint of mass burial of bodies registered by former sanitation worker Chinnaiah on July 4.

While seeking cooperation in the investigation of the case, the four activists have been asked, among others, not to threaten any witnesses, not to destroy any evidence, and not to indulge in any crime. In case of failure to appear for questioning and violation of any condition, the SIT will take them into custody , Mr. Dayama stated in the notice. As part of the investigation, the SIT dug up 17 sites and found that Chinnaiah had given a false complaint and false statement before the Magistrate in Belthangady. The SIT arrested him and charged him under various Sections of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

The notices issued to activists raise significance as Chinnaiah has told SIT that it was under the influence of Thimarodi and Mattannavar that he gave a false complaint. He told SIT that the skull produced before the Magistrate was given to him by Vittala Gowda, the uncle of the 2012 murder victim Soujanya. He also told SIT that the skull was kept for a while in the house of Jayant before taking it to Delhi, where a petition was filed before the Supreme Court. On rejection of the petition, complaint was filed in Dharmasthala police station.

KSTOA urges govt. to include mid-sized vehicles under GST 2.0 concessions

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Travel Operators' Association (KSTOA) has raised strong objections to the Goods and Services Tax (GST) 2.0 reforms, which exclude mid-sized multi-purpose vehicles (MPVs) and sport utility vehicles (SUVs) from the revised concessional tax structure.

In a recent letter to the Union Finance Ministry, the association termed the move, which classifies these vehicles as luxury passenger cars instead of essential tourism fleet vehicles, as 'grave injustice' to the travel and tourism industry. KSTOA president K. Radhakrishna Holla said the exclusion of widely used mid-sized MPVs and SUVs in tourism operations would have adverse effects on travel businesses. "Treating these vehicles as luxury-class passenger cars rather than essential tourism fleet vehicles is a serious injustice. At present, they attract up to 40% tax, creating a heavy burden on mid-segment travel operators. As a result, operator costs are sharply increasing, passenger service rates are rising, and the overall growth of the tourism sector is being stifled," he said.

Mr. Holla urged the Union Finance Ministry and the Fitment Committee to recognise mid-sized passenger vehicles as the 'real workhorses of Indian tourism' and extend appropriate tax concessions to them.

Supporting the association's demand, Manjunath K.R., a cab driver from Rajajinagar who operates an SUV for Bengaluru airport and outstation trips, said the reform would directly affect drivers' earnings.

In digital era, identities are co-authored by algorithms: Shekhar Seshadri

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

"When introspection is outsourced to algorithms, your sense of authorship on your own life may diminish. The autonomy of the self is challenged by these algorithmic nudges," said Shekhar Seshadri, well-known child and adolescent psychiatrist.

He was speaking at a public talk titled 'The Screen, self and algorithms', as part of Our Digital Futures Fest organised by IT for Change, a Bengaluru-based NGO working on research and advocacy in the domain of digital justice.

The fest is being held for a week from October 25 to November 1, as part of the NGO's 25th anniversary celebrations.

In the session moderated by author and philosopher Sundar Sarukkai, Dr. Seshadri walked the audience through an analysis of how experiences, behaviours, and even the sense of self are today conditioned by algorithms.

Child and adolescent psychiatrist Shekhar Seshadri speaking at the 'Our Digital Futures Fest', organised by IT for Change at Bangalore International Centre in Bengaluru on Saturday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Echo chambers
"As social beings, our sense of identity, especially during vulnerable developmental stages, has always been constructed and conditioned by our social contexts, socio-economic environments, family networks, peer groups, and other relevant determinants in our ecology. However, with the advent of algorithms, what we see is the conditioning of our thoughts, behaviour, and self-perception by a platform which is only concerned with maximising consumption and user engagement," he said.

The digital screen is no longer a passive window to the world, but an active participant in shaping the user's sense of self, he added.

Throwing light on feedback loops, he pointed out how algorithms monitor the user behaviour, such as scrolls and shares and build a data-driven profile accordingly. This curated version is then reflected to the user through personalised feeds.

"This can trap individuals into echo chambers of self-perception where certain aspects of their identity are constantly reinforced while others are neglected," he explained.

Ethical concerns
Mr. Seshadri also spoke about how constant exposure to curated, filtered, and amplified images of others' lives on social media can lead the user, especially children and adolescents, to make social comparisons and have a negative correlation with their self-esteem.

"And then there is the 'quantified self.' These algorithms encourage a database view of identity through tracking apps that track your sleep, mood, fitness... This reduces a person's rich, subjective experience to a set of measurable outputs, causing some users to trust the algorithms' judgment over their own intuition," he remarked, adding that in the digital era, identities are co-authored by algorithms which go to the extent of suggesting what a person should even think and feel.

While Mr. Seshadri agreed that AI systems could provide insight or help in emotional regulation, problems were likely when introspection was completely outsourced to them.

"It causes a serious erosion of narrative agency. Events in our life become structured and narrated not through introspective narratives, but through algorithmically created highlights such as Instagram highlights, fitness milestones, digital memory cues, and so on."

According to him, this becomes an ethical issue and its psychological dimensions, profound. "If identity, emotion, and even narrative are increasingly mediated through opaque systems, questions arise about authenticity, authorship and autonomy-...What does it mean to know oneself? And if a lot of that knowing is done by machines, who does the version of you that the algorithm is constructed belong to? Can a self be authentic if it is being optimised by invisible code on a previous basis?" he wondered.

Social media dependence
Noting that individuals need to indulge more in active self-construction to offset the passive exposure to algorithmic feedback, Mr. Seshadri suggested developing digital habits that prioritise reflective awareness, diverse media consumption, and the scrutiny of AI recommendations.

Upcoming events
The inaugural day of the fest held at the Bangalore International Centre also saw the release of 'People's Digital India', an anthology of essays brought out by IT for Change, and a photo exhibition featuring the field projects of the NGO.

Felicitated

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Students of Government High School, Malleswaram, were felicitated for being selected to represent India at the FIRST Global Challenge - Robotics Olympics 2025 in Panama at a ceremony held at REVA University on October 24 .

Timings
BENGALURU

SUNDAY, OCT. 26		
RISE	06:12	SET 17:55
RISE	10:02	SET 21:27
MONDAY, OCT. 27		
RISE	06:12	SET 17:55
RISE	10:54	SET 22:20
TUESDAY, OCT. 28		
RISE	06:12	SET 17:55
RISE	11:44	SET 23:15

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	27	24
Mysuru	27	19
Bengaluru	26	20

Bengaluru Today
29°C The weather will be slight warm. Night will be pleasant. Spell of light rain and thundershower may occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
28°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be comfortable. Spell of moderate rain and thundershower to occur.

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THE HINDU
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PUBLIC NOTICE
Public are informed that our client intends to purchase the Property **No.499** constructed on the Site measuring East to West **40 ft** and North to South **60 ft**, formed out of Survey No.57 to 82 of Domlur, comprising of Basement, Ground Floor measuring 1800 Sq.ft (167.2 Sq.Meters), First Floor measuring 1800 Sq.ft (167.2 Sq.Meters) and Second Floor measuring 1800 Sq.ft (167.2 Sq.Meters), presently bearing BBMP E-Aasthi Katha No.499, PID No.72-38-499, Ward No.112-Domlur situated at **Amarjyothi HBCS Layout, Domlur, Bangalore** bounded on -
East by : Site No.500;
West by : Site No.498;
North by : Site No.481;
South by : Road.
from its owner **Mrs.Jaya Kumar Bailkeri wife of Mr.Kumar G. Bailkeri.**
Persons having any right over the said property may lodge their objections / claims with documentary evidence within **7 days** from the date of this publication, to the undersigned.
K. V. Narendra & Associates,
Advocates and Legal Consultants,
No.557, 2nd Floor, 9th A Main,
Indiranagar, Bangalore - 560038.
Ph: 9945109229

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Classifieds

thehinduads.com

LIFE MADE SIMPLE

THE HINDU

Matrimonial

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

INDEX OF MATRIMONIAL

BRIDEGROOMS WANTED
BRIDES WANTED
BRIDES & GROOMS WANTED
Classification Common for Brides, Bridegrooms, Brides & Grooms
ASSAMESE
AWADHI
BENGALI
BHOJPURI
BIHARI
CHHATTISGARHI
ENGLISH
GUJARATI
HARYANI
HINDI
KANNADA
KASHMIRI
KONKANI
MALAYALAM
MANIPURI
MARATHI
MARWARI
NEPALI
ORIYA
PARSI
PUNJABI
SAURASHTRA
SINDHI
TAMIL
TELUGU
TULU
URDU
ADVOCATE
BUSINESS
DEFENCE
DOCTOR
ENGINEER
FINANCE/ BANKING
GOVERNMENT/ QUASI-GOVERNMENT
IAS/ ALLIED SERVICES
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
MBA/ CA/ ICWA
NRI
COSMOPOLITAN
DIVORCEE
PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED
MARRIAGE BUREAUS
WEDDING ARRANGEMENTS

DIVORCEE

ATTRACTIVE WIDOW 37, well–educated, talented, enterprising, family–oriented. Affluent S. Indian business family. Seeks compatible groom. Caste/lang. no bar. Call/WA 9345634365

BRIDE GROOM WANTED
Seeks Bride Groom (divorcee/widower) aged between 35-39 years (Engineer, Lecturer, Bank Officer) for Hindu Tamil Vanniyar 34 years Doctor MD DM Divorcee with Female Child, only daughter of doctor parents.
Parents of suitable and genuine person can send the horoscope with personal details.
Ct: 9043370040

DOCTOR

HINDU BOYAR MBBS MS General Surgeon 34/167 fair good looking seeks Doctor/equivalent profession groom frm equivalent communities. 9790248501

BALIJA NAIDU M.B.B.S Kettai, Viruchikam 27/167 fair good looking girl,Kanchipuram seeks Doctor (or) Professionally settled from Naidu families Contact: 9443380196, 9442202555

HINDU REDDY Fair, Slim PG Specialist Doctor 34/165 Cms in Private Practice from Elite Family. Seeks Suitable Never Married Groom From Elite Family CNB CT:8925640111

BRIDEGROOM WANTED
Mudaliyar Doctor Girl, Fair 26/175 MD Paediatric Maham Nakshatram from Chennai seeking suitable alliance preferably Doctor/CA/ Professional Entrepreneur
9791053568/9789056263

Fair, Cultured, Good Looking, Slim, Doctor Girl 36/165 MD, Cardiac Anesthesiologist. Doctor family, Father Keralite Nair Mother from Tamilnadu. Looking for Doctor groom or Engineer from respectable family.
98400 50381 / 98409 85383

ENGINEER

SEEKING QUALIFIED vegetarian brahmin groom Engineer, Doctor etc. working in India for beautiful brahmin bride very fair 1987 5'2" BTECH MBA Senior Software Consultant, mutually divorced (no child) , spiritual traditional from pure vegetarian Upper middle class family of Odisha (Father Retd Top executive, Sister doctor) Contact Parents: 8249215963

GOVT / QUASI GOVT

HINDU, NAIDU, 23yrs, tall, fair, BE , only daughter of Senior Government official seeks alliance from Government Employed groom. Message by Whatsapp: 7845698034.

HINDI

LOOKING FOR GROOMSmart & Beautiful Arora Gursikh girl,30 yrs / 5'5", Slim, B.Tech (CS).Independent Entrepreneur withhandsome income. Seeks a well–educated, progressive, professionally qualified match.Contact: 9871128966

KANNADA

HINDU VOKKALIGA Gowda 31, BE from Coimbatore seeks Suitable Groom. Contact: 97917 68175

MALAYALAM

VISWAKARMA GIRL (GS), M.Sc Research in Civil Engineering, pursuing Ph.D, 35/168 cm, Ayilyam, Trivandrum seeks suitable proposals employed in Bangalore from Kerala. Subcaste also will be considered. Contact: 9446483026, 8078238050.

TAMIL

CHRISTIAN, PILLAI, 36,M.Sc.,M Phil., Asst.Prof. Pondy,Seeks Groom FC/BC, below 39yrs. Ct: 98946-77892.

Catholic Vanniyar 27 Years MBA 166 cm Salem. Phone: 7540032705.

TAMIL

CHRISTIAN, CATHOLIC, 31, MS, private, 40lakhs. Contact : 8137003550

CHRISTIAN, 30, RC, MHRM, Private, 1crore. Contact : 8138900312

CHRISTIAN, 31, MS, Private, 30 lakhs. 8137003550

CHRISTIAN, 31, MBA, 20 lakhs, Business. 8138801294

GOVT. DOCTOR (MD).38yrs,157cm Fair.Never married.Seeks Eng/Doc 38–40yrs.Never Married Christian Groom.India/abroad.Ct: 9940529886/ 9600573068

TAMIL MUSLIM Bride, 31/158, MCA., AVP-IT, 27L PA well settled family seeks Tamil speaking never married Groom with similar background. Ct: 9080501299.

WELL SETTLED Christian Vellalar family in Chennai age 25, BE looking for groom below 30 similar family in Chennai only Contact – 9444466802

LOOKING FOR Christian Bridegroom for the girl working in USA aged 26. End time message. 8939250457

BORN AGAIN Christian, 44yrs/152, MBBS, MD doctor, seeks christian groom, Chennai. CT – 9500188067

ROMAN CATHOLIC, 28/155CM, fair slim pursuing MD Radiology seeks Groom. Preferably Doctor Contact: 94453 99103

CHRISTIAN, NRI, 29, Royal, 200 Crores. 8138900487

CHRISTIAN, 29, BE, 50 lakhs. 8137003550

MUDALIYAR, 27YRS, BE, MS, Elite business family in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Groom. Contact: 9176491777

HINDU NADAR, 23yrs, BE, MBA, Elite business family, Seeks suitable Groom. Contact: 9841329471/ 9380791999

DIVORCEE WOMAN aged 45 years with 25 year old daughter seeks a caring & decently earning unmarried gentleman age below 50 years. 7550188356

HINDU, NADAR, 25, MA, Private, 30 lakhs. Contact: 8138009144

HINDU, 26, M.Tech, Pillai, 25 lakhs. Contact: 8137003246

HINDU, 26, NRI, Pillai, BE, 40 lakhs. 8138901189

HINDU, CASTE no bar, 40, ME, Engineer, 25 lakhs. 8138900412

HINDU, VIP, 23, Caste no bar, B.Arch, 200 crores, business. 7356483111

AGAMUDI MUDALIAR, 34/165, Mirugasim, Raghu Lagnam, PG (HR Manager, MNC) Seeks MS, M.Tech Groom 9176780777

CASTE NO Bar, 28yrs, B.Tech, Divorce, Affluent family in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Groom Contact:6385293227

BRIDEGROOM WANTED for a well–to–do hindu family's bride age 43, first marriage, degree–MSW, want from (FC, BC, MBC), working within India. CT: 9080359664.

VANNIYAR, 25YRS, MBA, Elite business family in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Groom. Contact: 9962791888

HINDU SC pr 35 fair MSc BEd PGDCM Private teacher 25000 pm seeks groom below 38 with govt job father DRO 9600966892.

HINDU SC Pr 39 fair MSc MPhil BEd govt PG Teacher 70000 pm divorced no child seeks groom below 42 with govt job father DRO 9790049517.

Hindu Valluvan girl 34/160 lawyer seeks doctor engineer scientist lawyer UK based groom. CNB. Ct: 9894053928.

WANTED SUITABLE match for a fair and good looking Bride, Post graduate Doctor in Pediatrics, age 29, comes from a respectable educated family (Father-Senior Engineer Retired) living in Madurai.Caste No Bar. 9443969969

HINDU VANNIYAR BE., MS, 176cm / 30 very Fair, Slim working in Australia, Seeks grooms working in Australia / USA or Canada. Contact: 98439 45395. 94436 76687.

DKV/SC MAY 1994/ 167cm Fair BE Parents Hindu / CSI, Seeks Groom Dr./Er. Govt Employee. 8056143638

TAMIL

VANNIER 27 MBBS Mph Fair Slim doing MRCS seeks PG Doctor UK/willing to relocate from Vannier Affluent Rich. Geetham 9884858014

HINDU NADAR girl, 30 yrs, 5'4", B.Tech, Working. Same Caste only. Call: 9940086376.

HINDU GIRL B E, M S (Mech.) 4 years MNC abroad, working now in Bengaluru, fair, slim, pleasing manners, seeks Professional groom 6369259019

37,MCA,FAIR HASTHAM chennai seeks Pillai/Mudaliar professionaly Qulfd working Groom 9444136336/ 8220757159

SINGAPORIAN AERONAUTICAL Engineer Saiva Pillai Tamil Girl 23/173cm Magam Expecting Indian Base Singapore Working Tamil Groom from Vegetarian Caste. 88256 00084.

SC (AD), 27yrs,B.Tech, Working in Bangalore,Well educated Family Seeks suitable Groom Contact: 6385293227

MUDALIAR 24, BE, MBA,160cm Good Looking Well Settled Family seeks Groom CNB Ct. 8778514465/ 7200866346

BRIDES WANTED

BENGALI

Handsom Boy 27 yrs, height 160, Software Engr, Bangalore based, 21 LPA, seeks beautiful & educated bride from reputed family. (M) 9839187701.

COSMOPOLITAN

Seeking a Compassionate Loving Bride for Trivandrum Chennai based Tamil Malayalam speaking Handsome Engineer 60, Living alone with daughter, who has learning difficulties. Darling daughter is Independent and able to take care of her needs. Well settled broadminded Muslim is kind hearted youthful with Interests in Art, Music, Travel, No expectations except Love & Care. Ct: 99400 69890

BRIDE WANTED Alliance invited from Senior IAS Officer (R) Chief Secy grade, for his Son Sept 93 born, 178 cm, Handsome, teetotaller, MBA Finance, Premier B School. Oil PSU, Currently Posted in Mumbai, Likely to transfer to Banglore. Maharashtrian/ Tamil Parents, Settled in Chennai. Expectation– professionally qualified bride Caste/ Language NO BAR Whatsapp: 7305236868

MALAYALAM

MUSLIM BOY 28, 180, BTech, Indian Army Major, Studied NDA, Well settled (Kerala). 9995781938

NRI

NAIDU, 31/180CM, Pooratathi, BTech, MS, Research Engineer, Sweden Citizen, Call Father 9566682220

TAMIL

CHRISTIAN BRIDE GROOM, 25 yrs, height 180 cm, studied BE, MBA, annual income Rs 6 Lakhs, owns a house, employed in Chennai. Seeking God–fearing, educated working bride from a Pentecost /Roman Catholic background, especially Yadava, Pillai, or equivalent social status. Cont.99621 88367

TAMIL MUSLIM Age 26 Advocate Practicing in Chennai well educated & well settled family.Seeks Suitable professional bride Whatsup 7845136035

CHRISTIAN, 29, Australia, 2crore, M.Tech. Contact: 8138900487

TAMIL

RICH MUDALIYAR, 29yrs, MBBS, MS, Running own Educational Institutions, Seeks Suitable Bride Ct:6385293227

SAIVAPILLAI WIDOWER 53 BTech 170 cm Swathi one son Chennai seeks Divorcee /widow CNB Geetham 9884858014

PILLAI 33 B Arch 173cm Hastham Business Chennai seeks Suitable Bride CNB Geetham 9884858014

HINDU, PILLAI, 26, BE, Engineer, Canada,1 crore. Contact : 8138900412

HINDU, YADAV, 28, M.Tech, 2crore,UK. Contact : 7356483111

HINDU, USA, Thevar, 27, MS, Private, 5crore.Contact : 8138901294

PILLAI 44 Divorcee M.Com Central Govt service Rs.13.50 lakhs PA seeks bride caste no bar 9094020665

HINDU, 30, separated, NRI, BHM, 50 lakhs. 8138900316

HINDU, CHETTIYAR, MD, Doctor, 40 lakhs. 8138009140

HINDU Tamil Nadar 45 B.E., Carleton IISc https://ingeniousdesigntech.com 99943-51766

TAMIL MUDALIAR, 32yrs BE, MS(USA). Working in Kuwait as QA/QC Engineer seeks well Educated Bride Pooradam/Dhanush Rasi Ct: 8056229298

AGAMUDI MUDALIAR 36/168, Rohini, Sudhaa Jathagam, PG, Team Leader, MNC, Seeks Graduate Bride. 9176780777.

MUDALIYAR, 37YRS, M.Tech,Well Educated and Affluent family in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Bride Ct:6385293227

BACHELOR GROOM, 54, Govt 50K own house in Chennai & Native. Seeks Bride Age 30 to 40yrs, divorcee, widow with or without children. Community, Religion No bar. 9841152606

BRIDE WANTED Hindu Nadar, 28yrs, BE, MS (US), 4lakhs pm, well educated family Ct: 9841329471/ 9380791999

CHENNAI, MUDLR. Any Cast, PhD, Tetolr Divorcd, 41yrs.GM Chess Govt 2Lac /mth.Educ Simple girl. 9884171419

PILLAI 39/186CM B E Cognizant as IT professional @ Chennai, seeks suitable Bride Veg. only. Ct. 9042755506

HINDU, MALAYALI Chennai 37, BBA,DCA.Electronika Sales(P)Ltd,Ch. RQM 80K PM.Seeks Suitable Bride 9840142978

THONDAI MANDALA Mudaliar boy 41, Star Rohini B.B.A,D.M.E,10Acre land owned.Working in Annamalai University seeks same sect girl. Ct:8668154951

Seek Iyer Educated 23-25 Yrs Bride For 27 yrs working at Boston Baradwajam Poosam Call Ragupathy 9176488978.

AGE 47, Good Financial Prospects, Need A Well–Off Individual Bride, No Age restriction. Ct: 9884671173

UDAYAR, 38YRS, BE, MBA, Having Own Complex, Warehouses & Resorts, Seeks Suitable Bride Contact:6385293227

HINDU, 39/183CM, fair, handsome. PG Engg. Consultant. Divorced (no kids). Seeks well–educated, good–looking girl, unmarried/divorcee (no kids) from good Tamil family (Mudaliar, Pillai, Chettiar, Naidu preferred). Ct: 9566221110

MUDALIYAR 36Y BE/LLB 170cm 14 Lacs well and settled family little vitiligo seeks bride CNB. Ct 9445242964

CHETTIAR TAMIL 27, fair ,engineer , Teetotaler @ chennai brides wanted cast no bar . 8438358006/7418101960

✔ **MUDALIAR THIRUVADURAI Mithunam rich&affluent slim fair&handsome 6.1 Sep–95 boy BE CSE Sr Dev 18LPA Wipro, seeks well–educated slim fair good character Girl fr well–settled family Ct/Whatsup 9443228917**

MBA / 33 Years / Male / 42 LPA seeks Qualified Hindu Girl, Contact Mobile: 95438 15803

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TAMIL

CASTE NO Bar 31yrs BE, Running Own Manufacturing Industries in Chennai Seeks Suitable Bride Ct:9962791888

MUDALIYAR, KETTAI 39/165, M. Tech.,Ph.D.,HOD, Pvt.Engg. College, Pondy Seeks Bride 30 to 37yrs. 9942257578

MUDALIAR 30/188 Handsome, BE MBA, Own Textile Mills,8000000 PA, Elite–200 Cr, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

BRIDE WANTED Hindu Nadar, 28yrs B.Tech MS S/W Engineer 2L/pm, well educated family 9380791999/ 9841329471

INTELLIGENT, HANDSOME 29, 170cm, well–educated professional (MEng), EU citizen (Paris). Loving Tamil/ Telugu family. Seeking compatible bride. Caste no bar. Call/WA 9345634365.

HINDU , 27, Thevar, NRI, MS, VIP, 200 cr. 8138900312

HINDU, VVIP, 33, divorced, caste no bar, 300 crores. 8138900412

HINDU, CASTE NO bar, 26, Pillai, VIP, Canada. 8138009235

AUDITOR/ 46 Chennai/ Seeks Any Vegetarian Hindu Girl. Contact : 9884398109

IYER KASYAB Barani Oct85/180 Mutual Divorcee Double Masters,Ph.D thesis(Germany) Employd Germany Seeks Qualifd Unmarried Bride willing Relocate Germany 9444551216/ 04426861097

WANTED BRIDE Age between 28 – 30 Brahmin Iyengar any Brahmin Girl Preferably Iyengar Group. Ct. 9444261735

Seeking BRIDE for Bridegroom
Hindu, Kulalar/Udayaar, 44 yrs, 170 cms, M.Tech, IT professional, Caste open for discussion. First Marriage Only
CT: 93842 76066

VANNIAR 38/165cms MS (Aero Eng), Manager Airport Authority of India Seeks Professional Degree Bride Contact : 78128 76681 / 86750 32147.

Pillai, 32 years, BE MS-PhD-IITM, 50L p.a., Upper Middle Class, 174cm, Fair, MNC Bangalore, Seeking Good-looking PQM, CNB, Ct - 9840161742.

Hindu Nadar 28yrs/180cm Fair, Clean Habbit MBBS Boy, seeks Doctor, IAS, Elite Industrialist.CNB.Ct: 9677056755

TAMIL

BRIDE WANTED
Tamil Brahmin, Vadakalai Iyengar Bharatwaja Gothram, Pooradam 64yrs/165cms. B.Tech (IIT), M.Tech (NIT) Civil Engineer, Southern Railway, 12 LPA, OwnHouse, Never Married Seeks Suitable Brahmin Bride
Ct: 99449 48708

HINDU SC AD 28/175 BA, MBA Avitam, Kumbam fair good looking only son MNC working presently in Bangalore 10LPA, own house well settled, father- Central Government Chennai seeks suitable bride. Ph: 9444113515

Hindu Nadar, 27/183 cm fair M.Pharm Chennai seeks bride. Ph: 98847 33435 Email: benro1997@gmail.com

TELUGU

BALIJA NAIDU 32yrs Rohini Rishabam Fair Business (Surgical Manufacturer & Distributors) Seeks Any Telugu Caste Bride. 9790963402.

BALIJA NAIDU Telugu 29/178 BE/MBA Working In Chennai (Mesham Rasi/ Ashwini Star) Seeks Bride – Father 8754580155

NAIDU, 30YRS, B.Tech, MS (US), working in US, well educated family. Seeks Suitable Bride Ct: 6385293227

TELUGU DEVANGA Age 45 Superintendent Govt office chennai Any chettiar//Caste No Bar Bride ct:8072470183

Parents seek suitable and compatible alliance for their son, 27 years,Simha Raasi, Pooram star, BE, MBA,Employed, Balija, Gavara,CNB. 9444545598 (Mother) 9940090622(Father)

URDU

URDU MUSLIM Age 35 / 172cm DCE,BA. Business Rs.25Lac/PA Well Settled, Seeks Graduate, Beautiful Religious Bride. Ct:9884546312 / 9790706354

MARRIAGE BUREAU

US UK Canada All Caste Religion 1st Marriage Remarriage. Ct:8248757840

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MUDALIYAR, 36, 170 cms, IT Professional. Lives in Coimbatore. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match from similar community. Contact: 6366448344

NADAR, 28, 175 cms, MBBS, Doctor. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Doctor. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded and well educated match from any similar caste. Contact: 6366448343

ELITE GROOMS WANTED

SENGUNTHA MUDALIYAR, 26, 157 cms, B.Com, MBA, Entrepreneur. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded and well educated match. Contact: 6366448343

24 MANAI TELUGU CHETTIAR, 29, 163 cms, ME. Lives in Coimbatore. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded and well educated match. Contact: 6366448343

NADAR, 28, 170 cms, Psychologist. Lives in Chennai. Family is financially well off. Looking for a suitable match from similar community. Contact: 6366448344

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MUDALIAR (CNB) 25/Fair & Beautiful, B.E, MS (USA) Data science Associate, USA, well settled family, Seeks groom USA / Any abroad– 8925019776

VANNIYAKULA KSHTRIYA / Doctor/ PG/ Beautiful/ Fair/ 25 /167/ Chennai/ Rich Family seeks Well Educated and Well settled groom from suitable affluent noble family. 9840097530

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HINDU, 33, NRI, VIP, 100 crores, Caste no bar. 7356483111

HINDU, 32, MS, Chettiyar, VIP, NRI, 120 crores. 8138900316

HINDU, 35, divorced, Nadar, MBA, 20 crores. 8138900553

SEEKING SUITABLE Alliance for my Sister, April 1978 born, not married BE, MS USA, Iyer, Kousigam Vadama. After marriage back to India. Ct: 9845034495/ 99671 11155

Hindu Valluvan 41yrs, MBA, IT. MNC Working. Seeks Suitable Groom, CNB First Marriage only. Ct: 9886234181.

Vanniyar 33/165 Govt Doctor M.D.First year Chennai Upper Middle Class Star Kirurthigai Padam 4 Rashi Rishabam preferably Doctor or Govt Employed Groom from same community Cell 7299991172

TELUGU

VEG BRIDE 42/155/M.Com/B.Ed, Seeks well Educated & Professionally qualified, Caste No Bar. 8682080448

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ADVOCATE, 59, Divorced, well settled, Age/ Caste/ Religion no bar. Call: 9844015114/ 8310073553

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HINDI

1985/175CM, 50 Lakhs PA, Never Married, Bangalore. WhatsApp: 96290 12248

TELUGU

NAIDU 27/162 TELUGU/CHENNAI B.Tech MNC BANK seeking educated professional groom contact FATHER– 9445908221

TELUGU BRAHMIN Girl 30yrs, M. Arch, working in Australia seeks suitable groom. Contact: 81487 77931.

TAMIL

NEVER MARRIED BDS Own house, Chennai 43yr Seeks Christian Employed Bride 35to 40yr 7418218553, 9444842029

CHRISTIAN, Bornagain, 29, NRI, 25 crores. 8138900487

TAMIL MUSLIM 28 yr old ME graduate working in Chennai seeking bride of age 23–27 BE or any Master degree, working or willing to work. Ct 9361134612

RC CHRISTIAN, 42yrs/170, B.E. Software Engineer, never married, works for mnc, Chennai. CT– 9500188067

MUDALIAR 29 ME 178cm 20 Lacs P.A Smartlook Well Settled Family Seeks Bride CNB Ct. 8778514465/ 7200866346

PILLAI, SOZHIA Vellalar 40yrs, MBA, Manager, Pvt. 5 Lpa Divorcee, seeks suitable bride, CNB. Ct: 9952362396

SC (AD), 37yrs, MBA, Well Educated Family background, Seeks Suitable Bride. Contact: 9962791888

AGAMUDAYAR BARANI 32/192 MBA State Govt Employee, seek bride from Tanjavur, Pudukottai, Trichy 9840298572

MUDALIAR 29 BE Software Engineer Seeks Graduate Working Girl From Bangalore Contact 9353940454

URDU

SUNNI MUSLIM girl, 94born ,164cm , B.Tech ,never married,working in PSU bank Mumbai.U.P.based family well settled in Rajasthan. Father retired Addl.Director. #9461179587

SMU 1991 Born Unmarried Well–Settled MD Doctor from Chennai. Seeking Alliance from Doctors, Engineers From Well–Settled Family. 9444551651

TAMIL

BRIDE WANTED
Tamil Brahmin, Vadakalai Iyengar Bharatwaja Gothram, Pooradam 64yrs/165cms. B.Tech (IIT), M.Tech (NIT) Civil Engineer, Southern Railway, 12 LPA, OwnHouse, Never Married Seeks Suitable Brahmin Bride
Ct: 99449 48708

HINDU SC AD 28/175 BA, MBA Avitam, Kumbam fair good looking only son MNC working presently in Bangalore 10LPA, own house well settled, father- Central Government Chennai seeks suitable bride. Ph: 9444113515

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MARRIAGE BUREAU

US UK Canada All Caste Religion 1st Marriage Remarriage. Ct:8248757840

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Patel Taslimbi Hafijkhan, W/O Syed Asif, residing at #246, Khatgaon, Tq. Kamalnagar, Dist. Bidar, Karnataka – 585417, have changed my name to Tasleembee vide Affidavit dated 18.10.2025 before notary Patil Sanjay kumar, Aurad(B).

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THE HINDU
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Yathindra: CM will complete full term as things stand now

Siddaramaiah's son dismisses rumours about 'November revolution' and says there is no discussion on the issue in the party

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Under fire from a section of the partymen for projecting the leadership of Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi in Belagavi recently, Congress MLC Yathindra on Saturday seemed to add fuel to fire by stating that his father and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will complete his full term "under the present circumstances".

Yathindra

'No Nov. revolution'
Speaking to reporters here on Saturday, Mr. Yathindra dismissed the rumours about "November revolution" and said there is no discussion on the issue in the party.

Fielding queries from reporters, the Congress MLC said he does not wish to talk about the statement he made in Belagavi and that he had already given a clarification in the matter. "I don't wish to drag this issue any further and create a controversy. I will not talk about this anymore," he said.

When his attention was drawn to the possibility of a report being submitted to the party high command on the issue by the party and the demand to issue him a notice like it was to others in the party for speaking on the leadership issue, he said, "Let anyone do whatever they want, but I will not talk about the matter in the media anymore." He said he will talk about it only in party fora as it was an internal matter of the party.

Reacting to the possibility of a notice being issued to him, Mr. Yathindra said, "Let us see if a notice comes from the party."

He said he had already issued a clarification when the statement he made in Belagavi assumed a controversy. "How many times should I clarify. There is no need to keep clarifying," he said.

'Nothing wrong'
However, when asked if he will stick to his statement, Mr. Yathindra said there was nothing wrong in his statement. "There is nothing wrong in whatever I have said. I have already clarified it," he said, before adding that there were several AHINDA leaders and others in the party, who were committed to social justice, and they were all eligible to lead the party.

DC denies permission for RSS route march in Gurmitkal, cites delay in submitting application

The Hindu Bureau
YADGIR

Deputy Commissioner Harshal Bhoyar has denied permission to the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) to hold a route march on Sunday (October 25) at Gurmitkal on the ground that the application was not submitted three days prior to the scheduled march.

In the written acknowledgement to Basappa Sanjanol, district chief pracharak, Mr. Bhoyar stated that permission was denied for not submitting the application to the office three days before the march.

Mr. Sanjanol told *The Hindu* that earlier they had submitted an application to Gurmitkal tahsildar on October 20. But he returned it on October 23, stating that the Deputy Commissioner is the authority to give permission and also suggested filing an application before him.

"After that, we submitted the application before the Deputy Commissioner on October 23, seeking permission on October 25. But the DC rejected the application for not submitting it three days prior to the scheduled programme," he said.

A file photo of an RSS route march in Belagavi. The denial of permission at Gurmitkal comes even as a similar issue is pending before the High Court in connection with the RSS's proposed route march in Chittapur.

Following this development, the RSS called for a meeting to discuss the issue and decide to submit an application for permission afresh for new dates. "We will follow the rules and will submit an application to the DC well within the time," Mr. Sanjanol said.

Chittapur episode
The denial of permission at Gurmitkal comes even as a similar issue is pending before the Kalaburagi Bench of the Karnataka High Court in connection with the RSS's proposed route march in Chittapur of Kalaburagi district. The local administration there had earlier refused permission for the march scheduled for October 19, citing possible law and order problems since the Bhim Army and Bharatiya Dalit Panthers had also sought to hold processions on the same day and route.

Hearing a petition filed by RSS leader Ashok Patil challenging the denial, the High Court on October 24 directed the district authorities to convene a peace meeting with all the organisations concerned and the public to ensure a peaceful resolution. The court has posted the matter for further hearing on October 30, while the RSS has indicated that it intends to hold its centenary route march in Chittapur on November 2, subject to the outcome of the case.

RSS route marches being held for decades: HDK

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy took exception to the Congress government's repeated references to the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), saying the issue was being "raked up to distract from failures on the governance front."

"RSS path sanchalans (route marches) have been happening for decades. The Congress government has raked up this issue only to cover up its own failures. It is impossible to ban the RSS, so why waste time talking about them every day?" he asked.

Advising the government to "stop politicking and focus on development," Mr. Kumaraswamy remarked, "For a while, you targeted Dharmasthala. You created an SIT and wasted time. Now Mahesh Shetty Timarodi has got relief in one case. During this government's tenure, nothing reaches a logical conclusion. You simply waste time and mislead people," he alleged.

H. D. Kumaraswamy addressing the press in Bengaluru on Saturday. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

Responding to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's remark that he never seeks grants from the Centre, Mr. Kumaraswamy retorted: "Why should I? People have given them 136 seats. When I was Chief Minister, I did not wait for central funds to act."

Fruit rot returns to haunt areca farmers, with 50% dip in yield anticipated

Sathish G.T.
SHIVAMOGGA

Areca growers spread over Shivamogga and Chikkamagaluru districts, areas of traditional areca cultivation, are worried over the fall in yield due to kole roga, or fruit rot disease, affecting the plantations. A majority of growers in Tirthahalli, Hosangara, Sagar in Shivamogga and those in Sringeri, Koppa of Chikkamagaluru are anticipating a decrease in the yield up to 50%.

Excess rainfall in a short duration in these taluks badly hit the crop. In Shivamogga, the major areca-growing district in the State, the plantations are spread over 1,37,407 hectares. Of that, areca grown on 49,332 hectares had been affected by the fruit rot. The authorities estimate the loss to be in the tune of ₹2,537.40 crore. In the neighbouring Chikkamagaluru district, 21,304 hectares of areca plantation have been affected by the fruit rot.

The impact of the disease leads to premature dropping and rotting of tender nuts, causing heavy loss to farmers.

Premature dropping
The continuous heavy rains increases moisture in the soil, creating a conducive environment for fungal infection caused by *Phytophthora arecae*. The impact of the disease leads to premature dropping and rotting of tender nuts, resulting in heavy loss for the farmers. There are reports of leaf spot, also a fungal infection, caused by *Phyllosticta arecae*, in vast areas of the district.

Nagarajappa Adiveppar, head of the Areca Research Centre of Keladi Shivappa Nayaka University of Agricultural and Horticultural University in Shivamogga, said that in the months of August and July, there was continuous heavy rains for 10 to 15 days. "During such a situation, the humidity level increases in soil, helping the disease to spread. As there is heavy continuous rainfall, the growers cannot spray medicine and also face difficulty draining out water collected in the farm. We have received reports of fruit rot affecting farms in Kodagu, Dakshina Kannada, Uttara Kannada, besides Shivamogga and Chikkamagaluru," the official said.

Can get worse
Further, Mr. Adiveppar noted that if the infection was severe, the disease could turn into bud rot, impacting the yield from the tree in the coming years as well. The scientist said that the university had conducted several awareness programmes in farms on how to tackle the disease. "We have conducted a demonstration on preparing Bordeaux mixture. Many farmers do not follow the scientific method to prepare the mixture, resulting in low efficiency of the chemical," he added.

The growers are hoping that the State government and the Centre will offer relief for the farmers affected.

As rains ruin onion crop, farmers block road, pour onions on roads in Hubballi

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

The farmers of Dharwad and adjoining districts, who have already suffered losses due to incessant rains affecting the crops of green gram and black gram, are now further burdened owing to the rains affecting the quality of onion crop. On Saturday, the farmers staged a protest seeking minimum support price for the produce.

Hundreds of farmers gathered before the entrance of Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) yard at Amaragol in Hubballi on Saturday, parked their tractors on the road and dumped on the ground several bags of onion to register their protest against what they termed apathy of the officials and the government towards their plight.

Farmers dump onions on the ground at the Amaragol APMC yard in Hubballi on Saturday demanding MSP for onion crop. KIRAN BAKALE

Leading the protest, former vice president of Dharwad Zilla Panchayat Shivanand Karigar alleged that procurement centres for purchase of green gram had not become functional yet and demanded a minimum support price of ₹5,000 per quintal for onion. He also demanded a compensation of ₹50,000 per acre to the farmers of Dharwad district who had suffered losses due to excess rains.

The drop
The onion prices had seen a drop in the last week of September, especially after excess rains affected the yield of various crops and also the quality of onion.

The excess rains not only damaged the crop but also resulted in the crop being affected by fungal infections further reducing the yield in the districts of Kittur Karnataka. According to a rough estimate, 50% of the onion crop has been damaged and the remaining has been affected by diseases. Similar is the case in parts of Vijayanagar and Ballari districts.

At APMC yard at Amaragol in Hubballi, one of the biggest onion markets, minimum price for the local variety has been as low as ₹100 per quintal and the average price has been around ₹600 in the last fortnight. The Pune and Nashik variety is comparatively better, but the price is lower than that of last year. During the corresponding period last year, the local variety was sold in the ₹3,000 to ₹4,000 price range, according to officials.

Botanists from Davangere discover three new plant species

Girish Pattanashetti
HUBBALLI

Two botanists from Davangere University, Assistant Professor Siddappa B. Kakkalameli and research scholar Prashant Karadakatti, have discovered three new plant species in the Western Ghats region of Karnataka. Their findings have been published in international journals.

The three new plant species belong to the family *Melastomataceae* that grow in specific climatic conditions. The discoveries were made during floristic explorations in different districts of the State during 2024-25. The new discoveries have been published in *Asian Journal of Research in Botany*, *Journal of Threatened Taxa and Phytotaxa* and authenticated by International Plant Nomenclature Index (IPNI) and World Flora Online (WFO).

Botanists estimate existence of around 30,00,000 plant species across the globe and so far 2,50,000 species are known while 27,50,000 species are to yet be discovered.

Sonerila gigantea, a plant species in the Western Ghats of Karnataka discovered by botanists from Davangere University. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Endemic to Western Ghats
According to Prof. Kakkalameli, the newly discovered plant species belong to genus *Sonerila Roxb* of the *Maelastomataceae* family. According to the flora census from India, 46 plant species of the genus *Sonerila* were reported in India, of which 43 species are endemic to Western Ghats. Among them, 11 species have been reported earlier from Karnataka.

"Apart from the three newly identified species, we have found for the first time another species *Sonerila konkanensis* at Kavaledurga in Shivamogga district of Karnataka. This species, which was hitherto identified in the South Goa region, has now been reported as an addition to the state flora," Prof. Kakkalameli told *The Hindu*.

He said that his team investigated all three new Sonerila species comparing them with the existing species, like *Sonerila wallichii*, *Sonerila gadgiliana*, and *Sonerila grandis* from Malaysia, which resemble them in characteristics of size, shape of the leaf and numerical bloom characters. Such comparative analysis is done while identifying and confirming discovery of new species.

The names of the new species are: *Sonerila bababudangiriensis*, *Sonerila gigantea* and *Sonerila charmadiensis*.

Sonerila bababudangiriensis was discovered at the Baba Budangiri Hill range in Chikkamagaluru. It has unique characteristics like only one inflorescence in each individual, resembling an existing species from Karnataka.

Sonerila gigantea was found in the Mallalli Falls region in Kodagu. The plant has the world's most acualescent (stemless) Sonerila. And the third new species *Sonerila charmadiensis* was discovered in the Charmadi Ghat region of Chikkamagaluru. The plant has white blotches with rhizhome as resembling character.

According to Prof. Kakkalameli, most of the Sonerila distributed in the Western Ghats regions were analysed thoroughly before arriving at the conclusion on the new discoveries.

The herbarium of the new species is now available at Botany Department of Davangere University.

JD(S) sets up panel for GBA poll preparations

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With civic elections to the newly formed five municipal corporations under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) limits likely in the coming months, the Janata Dal (Secular) has set in motion its preparations. Party State president H.D. Kumaraswamy on Saturday announced the formation of a steering committee comprising legislators, former MLAs and senior leaders to oversee organisational work and coordination in the run-up to the polls.

According to a press release, the panel comprises A. Manju, Arkalgud MLA; M.T. Krishnappa, Turuvekere MLA; MLCs T.A. Sharavana and T.N. Javarayi Gowda; Nikhil Kumaraswamy, president of the State unit of Yuva JD(S); former Deputy Speaker M. Krishna Reddy; former MLAs Suresh Gowda and A. Manjunath; Bengaluru City unit president H.M. Ramesh Gowda and former MLC K.A. Tippeswamy.

The committee has been entrusted with the responsibility of setting up ward-level organisational units in the newly formed municipal corporations and strengthening the party's base.

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OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

In Loving Memory

We are deeply saddened to announce the passing of
Shri N. R. Tirumal
on 22nd October 2025 in Bangalore. He was the beloved husband of Smt. Jayanthi Tirumal and father of Shailesh, Smruti, and Sruti and the cherished patriarch of an extended family. A Chartered Accountant by profession, he dedicated over six decades in service to his clients with integrity and care.

May his noble soul attain eternal peace.
— The bereaved family

DEATH

IN LOVING MEMORY

With grief and sorrow we announce the sad demise of
MOLLY JOHN (92 years)
(W/o Late Sri John Joseph)

The Funeral will be held at CSI East Parade Church, MG Road Bangalore on October 27 2025 at 11:30am & thereafter burial at Hosur Road Christian Cemetery, Gate 1.

Deeply Grieved by
Joseph John & Deepa Joseph
Reeba Viju & R Viju
Grandchildren: Rohit Joseph, Akshay Viju

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INBRIEF

SIT inspects Bengaluru shop in Sabarimala gold theft case

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the "misappropriation" of gold from the Sabarimala Ayyappa Temple inspected a jewellery shop in Bengaluru on Saturday. Officials said the SIT inspected the prime accused, Unnikrishnan Potti's apartment in the city and also interviewed the jewellery shop owner with whom he had financial transactions. Devaswom Board Minister V.N. Vasavan speaking to presspersons said the "investigation was on the right track."

Woman killed after BMTC bus knocks her down

A 58-year-old woman was killed after she was knocked down by a BMTC electric bus on Saturday. The deceased has been identified as Mala, resident of Hampi Nagar in Bengaluru. She was crossing the road when the bus heading towards Vijayanagar from Yeshwantpur knocked her down. She died on the spot at Hampi Nagar bus stand. The Vijayanagar traffic police have registered a case against the driver for rash and negligent driving. The police have seized the bus.

Kerala HC judge watches *Haal* amid censorship row

The Kerala High Court judge on Saturday watched the Malayalam film *Haal* which is at the centre of a litigation over alleged censoring by the Central Board of Film Certification. Justice V.G. Arun watched the film, directed by Muhammed Rafeeq, at a private studio in Kochi. Representatives of the Catholic Congress, which was recently allowed by the High court to implead itself in a petition filed by the makers of the film, also attended the screening.

DNA matching of 18 Kurnool accident victims under way

It will be completed in 48 hours, say forensic authorities; A.P. registers 289 cases for violation of safety norms by private buses, Karnataka proposes additional emergency exit door on buses

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

Forensic experts of the Andhra Pradesh Forensic Science Laboratory (APFSL) on Saturday, began matching the DNA samples of the passengers, who died in the private bus fire accident at Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh.

Nineteen passengers were charred to death in Bengaluru-bound bus operated by V. Kaveri Travels, near Chinna Tekur village, near Kurnool when the bus caught fire after hitting a two-wheeler on the National Highway, on Friday.

Sixteen teams, headed by APFSL Director G. Pala Raju, rushed to the spot and collected sample.

Speaking to *The Hindu* on Saturday, Mr. Pala Raju said soft tissues of 18 victims, and blood samples of their kin were collected.

Forensic personnel and police at the accident site for investigation at Chinna Tekuru village of Kurnool district. NAGARA GOPAL

"We will complete the process of DNA samples matching with the blood samples in 48 hours. Police will hand over the bodies to their family members once the process at the FSL is completed," Mr. Pala Raju said.

The Andhra Pradesh Transport Department has intensified the drive on private travel buses and booked the violators of safety and permit norms.

18 vehicles seized

Transport Commissioner Manish Kumar Sinha said 289 cases were booked for various violations on Friday alone, as part of a special enforcement drive on All-India Permit Buses conducted across the State. As many as 18 vehicles were seized and ₹7.8 lakh compounding fee was realised by the department. Fire safety violations were most common.

More fire extinguishers

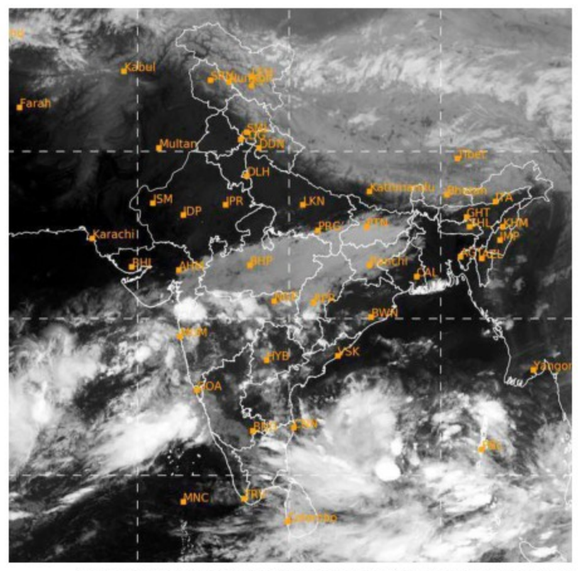
Meanwhile, the Karnataka government is set to issue a circular mandating enhanced safety measures in all passenger buses, including an additional emergency exit door and more fire extinguishers.

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy said a circular will be issued on Monday, applicable to both private and State-run bus operators to ensure the installation of extra emergency exit doors. Additional fire extinguishers will be made mandatory in all buses, he said.

(With inputs from Hyderabad and Bengaluru bureaus)

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala, Mahe and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Odisha, Telangana, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Lakshadweep

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	33.7	25.0	Kozhikode	0.1	33.0	25.2
Ahmedabad	—	35.5	25.9	Kurnool	7	32.0	22.1
Aizawl	—	30.8	19.9	Lucknow	—	33.0	21.4
Allahabad	—	33.2	22.0	Madurai	—	34.5	24.1
Bengaluru	—	29.0	20.0	Mangaluru	8	31.3	23.6
Bhopal	—	30.7	21.4	Mumbai	1	33.5	25.4
Bhubaneswar	—	34.2	24.1	Mysuru	—	29.6	19.0
Chandigarh	—	32.1	16.8	New Delhi	—	32.0	16.9
Chennai	24.2	29.7	24.2	Patna	—	33.6	25.1
Coimbatore	—	33.2	23.6	Port Blair	0.9	29.0	25.5
Dehradun	—	30.2	15.4	Puducherry	—	31.8	25.4
Gangtok	—	21.4	14.6	Pune	1.6	32.0	24.1
Goa	0.6	28.0	24.6	Raipur	—	32.9	24.5
Guwahati	12	31.4	22.0	Ranchi	—	29.8	20.4
Hubballi	—	27.0	20.0	Shillong	—	24.5	11.9
Hyderabad	—	29.2	22.9	Shimla	—	23.3	13.4
Imphal	—	30.3	22.5	Srinagar	—	23.3	4.2
Jaipur	—	32.4	17.8	Thiruvananthapuram	59	31.5	23.8
Kochi	5	31.0	24.6	Tiruchi	—	33.9	24.6
Kohima	—	27.2	18.0	Vijayawada	5	31.8	23.8
Kolkata	—	33.4	24.2	Visakhapatnam	—	32.8	25.9

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.28	..32	48	... 146	...110	
Bengaluru	...8	..13	30	 39	...112	
Chennai	.16	..17	42	 34	87	
Delhi	.31	117	45	... 369	...428	
Hyderabad	.13	..17	39	 51	...104	
Kolkata	...7	..16	62	... 220	...152	
Lucknow	...7	..56	48	... 165	...298	
Mumbai	..—	..62	69	 39	...115	
Pune	..—	..37	60	 25	40	
Visakhapatnam	.10	..27	14	 48	56	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Fatehabad, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 329 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 15

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Mudslip traps family in Kerala's Adimali

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A mudslide that occurred at Kumbanpara, near Adimali in the Idukki district of Kerala, late Saturday, partially burying two houses, and trapping at least one family inside.

A massive search and rescue operation was underway to extricate the trapped people.

The police have rushed earth movers to remove the debris and rescue them.

Idukki Member of Parliament Dean Kuriakose told local presspersons that emergency responders have contacted Biju and his wife, Sandhya, who are trapped in their house, over the mobile phone.

The Fire and Rescue Department, he said, were using a portable pneumatic drill to reach them by breaching the house's concrete roof.

Evacuated earlier

Mr. Kuriakose said he was unsure whether there were any occupants in the neighbouring house.

He said the district administration had evacuated residents of the disaster-prone locality due to the heavy rains that lashed Idukki district over the past few days.

However, Mr. Kuriakose said, Biju and Sandhya had returned home from the relief camp to retrieve some important documents when the mishap occurred.

The government has rushed an NDRF team to the spot.

Suspended BRS leader Kavitha takes out yatra

R. Ravikanth Reddy
HYDERABAD

After what she calls a harrowing month after being 'discarded' by the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) and its chief and her father, K. Chandrasekhar Rao, party MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha, embarked on a four-month 'Janam Baata' yatra from Saturday.

Mr. Rao suspended Ms. Kavitha from the BRS in September after her outburst against other leaders.

Launching the yatra at the Martyrs Memorial in front of the Assembly, Ms. Kavitha said: "Many people became martyrs in the Telangana movement [for statehood But we must ask ourselves, have we truly fulfilled the ideals for which they gave their lives?"

Ms. Kavitha said she could not do much during the BRS regime as she was not a signing authority despite being an MP and MLC of the BRS. "I admit I could have fought harder. Today, I sincerely apologise to them." It is very difficult for a woman to succeed in politics as the strongest opposition comes from the near and dear, she said.

New party

Ms. Kavitha said she is open to starting a party or working with parties that suit her ideology. "I am receiving tremendous support from the Backward Castes as I sincerely took up their issue," she said.

Ms. Kavitha's yatra could also be the precursor to the formation of a new regional outfit, as she asked, "When Andhra Pradesh could have two regional parties, why can't Telangana?"

Monsoon blues

Rain alert: Commuters navigate through low visibility on a foggy, rainy morning at the Kovalam bypass, in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, on Saturday. PTI

Beware of people dividing society on basis of caste: CM

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has emphasised the need for being cautious about people who try to divide society on the basis of caste and religion for their vested interests.

Addressing a large gathering at the valedictory ceremony of 'Kittur Utsav' at Kittur in Belagavi district on Saturday night, Mr. Siddaramaiah said that when the British came to India, they divided people and made them fight against each other to take control of the entire nation.

"Even now there are people who try to divide you on the basis of caste and religion. Beware of them," he said.

Siddaramaiah

Recalling the history of Kittur rebellion, Mr. Siddaramaiah said that 33 years before the 'Sepoy Mutiny', Kittur Chennamma defeated the British. "By defeating the British, she ensured the victory of Kittur's self-respect", he said.

"When the British came to India, our own people supported them. It was such people who conspired against Rani Chennamma and Sangolli Rayanna. Now also the practice continues. People make you to fight among yourselves in the name of caste and religion. Be careful about them", he said.

Emphasising the need for remembering history, Mr. Siddaramaiah said that both Tipu Sultan and Hyder Ali gave sleepless nights to the British.

"They fought ferociously against the British. But when Siddaramaiah recalls history, it is projected as appeasement politics. Babasaheb Ambedkar had said that those who don't know history cannot create history. We should not forget his words," he said.

Kerala to prepare oil spill crisis management plan

Dhinesh Kallungal
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Defence Ministry has directed the State to notify the plan in line with the one prepared by T.N.

In the wake of the two shipwrecks off the coast of Kerala, which raised serious concern about the threat posed by oil spillage to marine biodiversity, the State government will frame a detailed oil spill crisis management plan to prevent oil spills and mitigate their impact.

The Ministry of Defence, the nodal ministry for handling crises arising out of the spill of oil and hazardous substances at sea, has directed the State to notify the plan in line with the one recently prepared by Tamil Nadu. For Kerala, with a coastline of around 590 km along the west coast and close to the international shipping channel, the risk of oil spills is high as the Vizhinjam International Seaport is hardly 10 nautical miles from the east-west shipping lane.

S. Sreekala, chairperson, Kerala State Pollution Control Board, told *The Hindu* that a Bengaluru-based agency has been selected for preparing the plan. The agency will prepare a contingency plan in line with the national contingency plan. "The plan will define the standard operating procedures to be followed by different agencies in the event of an oil spill," she said.

Committees formed

As per a directive of the Centre, the State has now constituted a seven-member core group headed by the Chief Secretary, in addition to oil spill crisis management groups at the State, district, and local levels to manage oil spill incidents.

However, the committees at the local and district levels did not actively involve local self-government institutions, drawing criticism from disaster management experts.

Aussie firms urged to partner with TG

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

IT and Industries Minister D. Sridhar Babu, who is on an official visit to Australia, has invited Indian-origin CEOs of leading Australian firms to partner with the State in its 'Rising Telangana' growth journey.

IT and Industries Minister D. Sridhar Babu during his visit to Parliament of Victoria in Melbourne on Friday.

'Fastest-growing'

Highlighting Telangana's emergence as one of the fastest-growing States in India, on the back of a strong economic foundation, stable governance and progressive leadership, the Minister, participating in a business conclave organised by The Centre for Australia-India Relations in Sydney, made a case for attracting investments.

Telangana has emerged as a secure and globally attractive investment destination and offers world-class infrastructure, transparent governance and a conducive policy framework.

He showcased the State's TG-iPASS single-window clearance system, progressive industrial policies and robust innovation ecosystem that support large-scale and emerging industries alike, the Minister's office said on his interaction.

Assuring that the government will provide full facilitation and support to industries and investors seeking to establish or expand operations in the State, Mr. Sridhar Babu spoke of the ongoing efforts to build an industry-ready workforce through strategic collaborations with global and national institutions.

He invited investors to explore opportunities in the areas of Artificial Intelligence (AI), Data Analytics, Machine Learning, Gaming, Animation, VFX as well as in semiconductors, aerospace, defence, Advanced Manufacturing, green energy and electric vehicle manufacturing.

On Friday, Mr. Sridhar Babu visited the Parliament of Victoria in Melbourne and discussed, with a few Australian legislators, the legislative procedures, parliamentary governance and public accountability frameworks.

In another engagement, Mr.Sridhar Babu met senior representatives of Monash University, Melbourne, and invited the institution to collaborate with the State.

From Page One

Cong. seeks probe into LIC's Adani investment

The move amounted to using public money to bail out a private business house facing "serious allegations of criminality", Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh said in a statement.

"Under whose pressure did government officials decide their job was to rescue a private company? Is this not a textbook case of 'mobile phone banking'?" he asked.

Mr. Ramesh cited internal documents reported in the media. The investments led to losses for the LIC, including a ₹7,850 crore fall in just four hours of trading on September 21, 2024, following the indictment of Mr. Adani and seven associates in the U.S., he said. The business tycoon has been accused by U.S. authorities of a ₹2,000 crore bribery scheme related to solar power contracts, he added.

The Congress reiterated its long-standing demand for a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe into the Adani matter, which it first raised through its '*Hum* Adani *ke Hain Kaun*' ('who are we to Adani') campaign.

"As a first step, the PAC should investigate how LIC was forced to invest in Adani Group companies. That will be well within its powers," Mr. Ramesh said.

The Congress leader alleged the Modi government had "refused for nearly a year" to serve a summons from the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission to the Adani Group, which he described as "the Prime Minister's most favoured business conglomerate".

Calling it the "Modani MegaScam", Mr. Ramesh said the issue went beyond the LIC's investment, and included alleged misuse of Central agencies, including the Enforcement Directorate, the Central Bureau of Investigation, and the Income Tax Department to pressure private firms into selling assets to the Adani Group.

Cyclonic storm likely to cross A.P. in two days

The weather system will also trigger intense downpours in coastal Andhra Pradesh, Rayalaseema, Kerala, and Puducherry, apart from T.N., on Sunday. Some parts of coastal Karnataka may also experience heavy rainfall early next week. Rainfall intensity will gradually increase from Monday. Red alerts have been issued to coastal Andhra Pradesh and Rayalaseema, indicating the possibility of extremely heavy rainfall at one or two places for three days from Monday.

The RMC has warned that squally winds with speeds reaching 50-60 kmph may prevail at isolated places over coastal A.P. and Rayalaseema between Monday and Wednesday. Fishermen have also been advised to return to the coast immediately as squally weather with wind speeds gusting to 55 kmph is likely to prevail along and off the Tamil Nadu coast, over the Gulf of Mannar and the Comorin area.

Cabinet Secretary T.V. Somanathan chaired a meeting of the National Crisis Management Committee to review preparedness for the impending cyclone. The Chief Secretaries of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Puducherry, and the Additional Chief Secretary of Odisha apprised the Committee of the measures taken to protect residents in the expected path of the cyclonic storm. National Disaster Response Force teams will be mobilised by Sunday and relief teams of the Indian Army, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard are on alert. Mr. Somanathan stressed that the primary goal is to ensure zero loss of lives and minimise damage to property and infrastructure. Essential services must be restored in a short duration, he said, according to a statement.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu held a teleconference with District Collectors, Superintendents of Police, and other senior officials on cyclone preparedness on Saturday, directing them to be proactive in mitigating the impact of the cyclone.

A.P. crash: rider died before bus ran over bike

The special teams also found that two youngsters – Nani alias Eriswamy and his friend Shivshankar – were travelling on the route from Kurnool city towards Dhone when the tragic bus accident occurred. While Shivshankar was riding the bike, Mr. Nani sat pillion.

The two started from Mr. Nani's house at Laxmipuram after 2.20 a.m. They stopped by a petrol bunk and headed for Dhone. Nearly 200 metres before the accident spot, the bike skidded on the road, throwing off both the riders.

"Shivshankar died instantly with his head banging against the road. Mr. Nani got hurled over the two-feet-high steel railing along the road and landed on bushes with minor injuries," an officer associated with the investigation explained on a condition of anonymity. Mr. Nani walked up to his friend only to realise the latter was dead.

"Minutes later, the V. Kaveri bus ran over the bike, dragging it for nearly 200 metres," according to the officer. Mr. Nani, who was an eyewitness to this, admitted to police that he saw the bus catching fire and heard the screams of passengers from a distance.

He told the interrogators that he stayed at the accident spot till the police and fire service personnel arrived.

Kin struggle to make contact with Indians stuck in Russian war zone

At least two Indians have been killed in the Russia-Ukraine war since September; the MEA had said previously that it had taken up the matter with Russian authorities and insisted that the practice of recruiting Indians in the war be ended

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Sandeep Sunda had been enlisted in the Russian Army and forced to fight in the war zone on the Russia-Ukraine border. The two countries have been at war since February 24, 2022. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

In the 50 days since he last heard from his brother, Indian Army jawan Prabhudayal Sunda has petitioned various government offices seeking his brother's rescue from Russia, but is yet to receive any response.

Sandeep, 23, Mr. Sunda's younger brother, had been enlisted in the Russian Army and forced to fight in the war zone on the Russia-Ukraine border, his family has said, echoing claims made by many other families across the country.

At least two Indians have been killed in the war since September, and the body of one of them – Karamchand of Kaithal in Haryana – arrived from Russia on October 18. The body of the other deceased, also reportedly from Haryana, is in Russia as the family is yet to confirm his identity, since the body is charred.

"I last spoke to my brother on September 6. It has been 50 days since we heard from him. In his previous call, he said their Commander [in the Russian Army] had told them that this was their last opportunity to speak to families, as they will be entering a no-network zone. He was hired by a contractor to help the Russian soldiers with food and other logistics. He was never meant to join the war," Mr. Sunda said.

He further said that after completing his BA degree at a college in Sikar, Rajasthan, his brother had enrolled in a Russian language course in Moscow in February.

"On August 20, he was approached by an agent who promised him ₹1.5 lakh for assisting Russian soldiers with food and sundry activities. He was told that after a 15-day training period, he will have the option to return. However, his passport was confiscated and he and others were taken to the border. He told me on phone that he was not being allowed to return. He got married only a year ago," said Mr. Sunda.

Awaiting Russia's reply

He added that the Indian Embassy in Moscow and the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) have informed them that they were awaiting the response from Russia.

Jagdish Choudhary from Nagaur in Rajasthan said two relatives – his brother Mahaveer Prasad, 31 and brother-in-law Surender Dahiya – remain incommunicado since September 7. The two men travelled to Moscow in April after being contacted by agents to work in the construction sector but were instead enlisted in the Russian Army.

'Forced to infiltrate'

"They are forced to infiltrate Ukrainian territory by the Russian Army, where they are at risk of being attacked by drones. We have information that at least two Indians have been killed so far while there has been no communication with the other 25, including my relatives," said Mr. Choudhary.

He said they have written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking his help in locating their whereabouts. "In the letter, we have shared the identity card provided by the Russian Army," he said.

On September 11, a day after *The Hindu* reported that at least 15 Indians were likely to be in Ukraine after being caught in the battlefield, the MEA said that it had taken up the matter with Russian authorities both in Delhi and Moscow, seeking that "this practice [of recruiting Indians] be ended and that our nationals be released."

In August 2024, after India strongly raised the issue, the Russian Embassy said in a statement that it no longer admits Indians into its Army, adding it was working in "close coordination" with Indian authorities to help discharge Indian nationals recruited for the war in Ukraine. The two countries have been at war since February 24, 2022.

The assurance came after Prime Minister Narendra Modi raised the issue "personally" with President Vladimir Putin during his visit to Moscow in July the same year. The MEA has issued several warnings and advisories cautioning Indians against falling prey to such jobs.

Tensions rise in U.P. over slogans on temple walls

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

Tensions mounted in some villages of Aligarh district in Uttar Pradesh on Saturday after unidentified miscreants wrote religious slogans such as "I Love Muhammad" on the walls of four temples in the intervening night, prompting police intervention and deployment of heavy force to control protesters who alleged attempts were being made to disturb communal harmony.

Slogans were written in temples at four different locations in Bhagwanpur and Bulaqigarh villages in the district and the police promptly removed them to prevent any disturbance to law and order. However, the protesters sought action against the culprits.

Forensic teams of police are scrutinising CCTV footage from the surrounding areas to identify the culprits. "On receiving information about religious slogans being written on the temples, myself along with the local police teams inspected all the temples of Bulaqigarh and Bhagwanpur villages...We talked with villagers, asking them to maintain peace and cooperate with the police," said Neeraj Kumar Jaduan, Senior Superintendent of Police, Aligarh.

Centre announces Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar for scientific achievements

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Jayant Vishnu Narlikar, who passed away in May this year, was announced the recipient of the Vigyan Ratna. THULASI KAKKAT

The Centre announced the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar (RVP) – its Padma-style national awards for scientific achievement with 24 individual awards and one team honour – on Saturday. Eminent physicist Jayant Vishnu Narlikar, who passed away in May, was announced the recipient of the Vigyan Ratna, an award for lifetime contribution.

This year, eight scientists were selected for the Vigyan Shri awards: Gyanendra Pratap Singh, Yusuf Mohammed Shaikh, K. Thangaraj, Pradeep Thapalil, Aniruddha Balchandra Pandit, Venkata Mohan, Mahan Mj and Jayan N.

Recipients for the Vigyan Yuva awards: Jagadis Gupta Kapuganti, Satendra Kumar Mangrauthia, Debarka Sengupta, Deepa Agashe, Dibyendu Das, Waliur Rahman, Arkaprava Basu, Sabyasachi Mukherjee, Shweta Prem Agrawal, Suresh Kumar, Amit Kumar Agrawal, Surhud Shrikant More, Ankur Garg and Mohansankar Sivaprakasam.

The Vigyan Team award went to the CSIR Aroma Mission.

Last August, ahead of National Space Day, 2024, the inaugural RVP ceremony was held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, with President Droupadi Murmu presenting the awards to 33 scientists. This year, the announcement had been delayed for nearly two months. Last year, there were allegations that the award selection process was not fair, and speculation that those scientists critical of government policies had been ousted at the last minute. An independent panel – the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar Committee, steered by the Principal Scientific Adviser – decides on award recipients and makes a recommendation to the Minister of Science and Technology. It is unclear if the Minister has a veto on the recommendation.

The Vigyan Ratna aims at recognising lifetime achievements and contributions made in any field of science and technology. Vigyan Shri is awarded for distinguished contributions in any field of science and technology. Vigyan Yuva award is for young scientists under the age of 45 years to recognise their exceptional contributions. Vigyan Team award will be given every year to a team, comprising three or more scientists, researchers or innovators.

Pakistan must end rights violations in occupied areas: India

Press Trust of India
UNITED NATIONS

Indian envoy said that democracy is a concept alien to Pakistan

Asserting that democracy is an "alien" concept for Pakistan, India has called upon Islamabad to end grave human rights violations in territories under its illegal occupation, where the population is in "open revolt" against military occupation, repression, brutality and exploitation.

Responding to references made by Pakistan's envoy at the U.N. Security Council's open debate on "The United Nations Organisation: Looking into the future" on Friday, India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Parvathaneni Harish, said, "The people of Jammu and Kashmir exercise their fundamental rights in accordance with India's time-tested democratic traditions and constitutional framework."

"We, of course, know that these are concepts alien to Pakistan," Mr. Harish said.

"We call upon Pakistan to end the grave and ongoing human rights violations in the areas illegally occupied by it, where the population is in open revolt against Pakistan's military occupation, repression, brutality and illegal exploitation of resources," he said. He added that the 80-year-old Security Council architecture no longer reflects contemporary geopolitical realities.

Invalid votes, cross-voting pulled NC's vote share down in each round of the J&K poll

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

The biennial election to the four Rajya Sabha seats from Jammu and Kashmir witnessed a curious case of six invalid votes across three rounds of polling, increasing in each round.

The National Conference (NC) won three seats, while the BJP snagged the remaining seat in a surprise win.

According to the J&K Chief Electoral Office, during the first round of polling when the NC's Choudhary Mohammad Ramzan was pitted against the BJP's Ali Muhammad Mir, one vote was reported invalid in a total electorate of 87. Though the J&K Assembly has 88 members, J&K Peoples MLA Sajad Lone abstained from voting.

The winning vote share for the first round was fixed at 44. The NC's Mr. Ramzan bagged 58 votes and the BJP's Mr. Mir got 28 votes, which is the BJP's total strength in the House.

The NC, which has 41 MLAs, was supported by all regional parties – the PDP (with three MLAs), Congress (six), and CPI(M), Awami Ittehad Party, and AAP with one MLA each. Five Independents are also part of the government. In the second round, where the NC's Sajjad Ahmad Kichloo was pitted against the BJP's Rakesh Mahajan, the NC's vote share dropped to 55 out of a total 87 votes. The invalid votes jumped to two, and the winning quota for the seat was set at 43. This time, the BJP's Kumar managed 29 votes though the BJP has only 28 MLAs, indicating cross-voting.

The third round of polling saw the NC's vote share drop still further to just 52.

The BJP's Mr. Sharma got 32 votes, four more than the BJP's strength in the Assembly, while the NC's Shammi Oberoi and Imran Nabi Dar bagged 31 and 21 votes, respectively. This means that the NC lost seven votes, with four MLAs cross-voting and three votes being invalid.

Record number of festival trains, says Vaishnaw; Rahul decries 'unsafe, packed travel'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Saturday said that close to 1.5 crore passengers had already travelled during this festive season, and the figure was likely to cross 2.5 crore by its end.

In an interaction with presspersons in New Delhi, Mr. Vaishnaw said that during Lalu Prasad's tenure as Railway Minister (2004-2009), just about 178 special trains were run in Deepavali-Chhath, and the number now exceeded 13,000.

He said that large holding areas have been set up at 30 railway stations for smoother crowd management.

"The safety of the railways has improved. The number of accidents has reduced from over 170 in 2014 to just 31 in 2024-25. Our aim is to bring it down further and make rail travel safer," he said.

Mr. Vaishnaw's remarks came on a day when the Congress accused the Narendra Modi government of deceiving people in Bihar by not fulfilling its promise to run 12,000 special trains during the festive season, with the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, asserting that travellers are being forced to undertake "inhuman" journeys.

The party alleged that despite claims made ahead of the State elections, only around 1,500 trains were operated, leaving thousands of passengers stranded or forced to travel in unsafe conditions.

Mr. Gandhi said that trains to Bihar were "packed beyond capacity," making the journey "inhuman". "This is a month of festivals – Diwali, Bhai Dooj and Chhath – when people long to return home to their families. But trains are overcrowded, tickets are impossible to get, and people are hanging onto doors and roofs. Where are the 12,000 special trains?" he said in a post on X.

BIHAR ASSEMBLY ELECTION

'Bihar dry only in name, liquor home-delivered'

Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader and INDIA bloc chief ministerial face Tejashwi Yadav on Saturday accused the Nitish Kumar government of creating a system for the home delivery of liquor despite Bihar being a 'dry State'. He also said prohibition in the State is only for namesake. "Home delivery of liquor is no secret in Bihar. However, only the rich people are enjoying the drinks whereas poor people are being sent to jail.," Mr. Yadav said while addressing an election rally in Bhojpur. "The police arrest male members of families on charges of selling and distributing liquor. They beat them up and put them behind bars. However, they do not even touch the big people like government officers and Ministers who are the most involved in the liquor business," he alleged.

Police and State administration are helping in the sale of liquor, says RJD's Tejashwi Yadav. ANI

Tripura State Rifles roped in for security

More than 400 personnel of the elite Tripura State Rifles (TSR) will provide security during the two-phase Bihar Assembly election. A senior official of Tripura's Home Department said that the TSR contingent, led by Commandant Jyotishman Daschoudhuri, left for Bihar on Friday night. The contingent is expected to reach Patna by October 27 morning. "They will provide security during both the phases of the polls, according to the Election Commission's deployment plan," the official said. The first phase of polling, covering 121 of the 243 Assembly constituencies, will take place on November 6. The second phase on November 11 will cover the remaining 122 seats. The TSR has been providing security during polls and other major events across the country.

> While Lalu Prasad gave jobs to 94,000 people during his tenure, Nitish Kumar provided employment to 18 lakh people
>
> **SAMRAT CHOUDHARY**
> Bihar Deputy CM

'Tejashwi yet to come out of our father's shadow'

Former Bihar Minister Tej Pratap Yadav said his younger brother Tejashwi, whom the INDIA bloc has named Chief Ministerial candidate for the polls, was yet to come out of the shadow of their father Lalu Prasad. "The day he makes a mark for himself, I will be the first to call him a *Jan Nayak*," Mr. Tej said. PTI

> What they [BJP] did with Naveen Patnaik in Odisha, the same may happen with Nitish Kumar. They crush whoever they embrace
>
> **SUDAMA PRASAD**
> CPI(ML) Liberation leader

Fresh face: Divya Gautam is a theatre actor and Ph.D. scholar with several degrees to her credit. SOBHANA K.

CPI(ML)'s Digha candidate brings women's rights to the forefront

Sobhana K. Nair
PATNA

In a rundown building in the Bihar capital, a group of CPI(ML) Liberation workers gathered to discuss the campaign strategy for their candidate Divya Gautam who is contesting from Digha, an urban constituency in Patna. Outside, the markets are swelling with crowds shopping for Chhath Puja. With the festival punctuating the campaign schedule, the growing worry is that there are hardly 10 days available to cover Digha, the largest constituency in Bihar.

The 34-year-old's diminutive frame is lost among mostly grey-haired men and women. She is listening intently, as her comrades lay out the challenges – the biggest of which is coordinating with the other allies of the *Mahagatbandhan*, or grand alliance, the RJD-led Opposition grouping. There are niggling problems such as sourcing the flags of the Congress and the RJD – to display unity.

Sushant connection

Blaring headlines introduced her to Bihar as the cousin of deceased Hindi film actor Sushant Singh Rajput, who was found dead in June 2020 at his residence in Mumbai. The BJP ran a campaign "Justice for Sushant" during the 2020 Assembly election, alleging foul play.

"In the patriarchal world we live in, a woman's identity is often tied down to a male relative – husband, father or brother," she said. The media, after all, is part of this very world," she said. She doesn't flinch at the introduction. By now it is familiar to her. She does not see it as a roadblock in carving out her individual identity. It may open doors for her, but ultimately it is she that people see.

"In his short life, Sushant made a mark on his own and he is loved by many. It is only obvious that people may want to speak about him," she said.

Poor representation

What worries her far more is the continued under-representation of women in politics. The NDA has fielded 35 women candidates (14.4%) for the 243-member Assembly, while the INDIA bloc has fielded 32 (13.16%). Both the alliances are way short of the 33% quota proposed in the women's reservation Bill. She is the lone woman candidate in the CPI(ML)'s list of 20. She asks,"Why wait for the women's reservation Bill to pass? Instead of being compelled by law to field women, parties should have done it now."

Growing up reading Maxim Gorky's *Mother* and watching Charlie Chaplin's *Modern Times*, Ms. Gautam is a theatre actor with a long list of degrees to her name, including a Master's in Women Studies from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences. She is currently pursuing her Ph.D. in Gender and Communication at BITS Pilani. She has been associated with the CPI(ML)'s student wing, the All India Students' Association, since 2011. She narrowly lost the 2012 Patna University Students Union Election.

She describes as "contrived" the ruling party's narrative presenting Chief Minister Nitish Kumar as a champion of women's rights based on his government's policy (especially the women's self help group, Jeevika). Proliferation of micro-finance companies in the State runs counter to the government's claims that Jeevika provided economic security to women. "They ask, 'Did you wear good clothes before 2005, 'were you able to speak up before 2005.' This is infantilising the narrative and denying women any agency," she said.

"When I leave this world, I should not carry the regret that I didn't speak up when I was supposed to," she said.

Wrong ticket in grand alliance, it's an RJD vs VIP tussle in Gaura-Bauram

RJD's Afzal Ali Khan refuses to step aside for Santosh Sahani, younger brother of Vikassheel Insaan Party founder Mukesh Sahani, after the latter got nomination in a last-minute deal; confusion reigns supreme for voters, unable to make up their mind on which grand alliance candidate to support

GROUND REPORT

Amarnath Tewary
GAURA-BAURAM

The *Mahagatbandhan* (grand alliance) is in a quandary in the Gaura-Bauram Assembly constituency in Darbhanga district, where Rashtriya Janata Dal candidate Afzal Ali Khan got ticket, but in a last-minute deal, the seat went to the Vikassheel Insaan Party (VIP).

Mr. Khan refused to comply with RJD chief Lalu Prasad's request to return the party symbol, and insisted on continuing as the party candidate. Confusion reigns for voters, they told *The Hindu*.

"I am contesting the election on RJD ticket, and seeking votes as a grand alliance candidate. You go and ask the people of the constituency," Mr. Khan told this reporter over a phone call.

His social media handle continues to post on his campaign as a candidate supported by the grand alliance.

"I have not heard his name. I do not know him," Mr. Khan said, when asked about the VIP's candidate, Santosh Sahani, younger brother of party founder Mukesh Sahani.

"Have you heard that conversation between us," Mr. Khan said when asked if he had not been called by the RJD leadership to withdraw from the contest when the seat plan was finalised.

"No one has asked me to return ticket," he said.

Who is genuine?

"I am the real grand alliance candidate in the field, and I know no one else. The other parties' candidates are also in the fray, isn't it," Mr. Khan said, when asked if voters would not be confused while choosing the alliance candidate against Sujit Kumar of the BJP.

The Jan Suraaj Party (JSP), founded by former poll-strategist Prashant Kishor, has nominated Mohammad Iftikhar Alam as its candidate, but voters said the contest was "only between Afzal Ali Khan and Sujit Kumar".

"The fight is only between the RJD candidate and the BJP candidate. The VIP has made a mistake by fielding Mukesh Sahani's brother Santosh Sahani against both the candidates. He will lose in this Brahmin- and Muslim-dominated constituency," Prabhakar Kumar, 38, who runs a photocopying shop under a makeshift structure by the side of the road opposite the Gaura-Bauram Block Development Office said.

High stakes: Polling for the Gaura-Bauram constituency is scheduled for November 6. AMARNATH TEWARY

Mr. Kumar, who hails from an Extremely Backward Class (EBC) community, declined to be photographed, and suggested that a picture of the dilapidated Block Development Office be taken instead. The office had some vehicles parked inside the compound with a lone policeman on duty snoozing on a stool at a distance.

"Even in my Muslim community, he doesn't stand any chance," Julus Miyan, from the adjacent shop, said of Mr. Alam, the JSP candidate.

"I don't know why he is being fielded in the contest. There must be some larger political design behind his candidature," Mr. Miyan said.

Mr. Sahani has stated his intention to move the court, seeking action against local election officials for not "dismissing the candidature of the RJD's Afzal Ali Khan even after [his] party chief Lalu Prasad requested him to withdraw".

In the 2020 Assembly election, Mr. Khan was defeated by over 7,000 votes by the then VIP candidate, Swarna Singh, who, in May 2022, joined the BJP, along with two other party MLAs. Ms. Singh has not secured ticket this time, with the BJP fielding Mr. Kumar.

The Janata Dal(U) won the seat in the 2010 and 2015 Assembly elections. Gaura-Bauram is situated on the Darbhanga-Saharsa district border, about 45 km from Darbhanga town. The constituency is dominated by Brahmin, Muslim, Yadav, and Mallah (Mr. Sahani hails from this community), and other EBC voters.

It falls under the Darbhanga Lok Sabha constituency, with three blocks (Guara-Bauram, Kiratpur, and Biraul), and 12 village panchayats.

The Kamala river flows through the constituency and supports its largely agrarian economy.

"Distressed migration of local youth from the area is its biggest curse," sexagenarian voter Baburam Shah said. Mr. Shah owns a cloth shop on the Gaura-Bauram-Saharsa highway. "The BJP has an edge over other candidates in this constituency," he said.

Sources in the RJD said that when Mr. Khan did not return his party's symbol, Mr. Prasad wrote to the Bihar Chief Electoral Officer to "not consider" his nomination. However, Mr. Khan had by that time travelled to Gaura-Baram and filed his nomination papers on October 17.

Mr. Khan subsequently went incommunicado. Election Commission authorities told the RJD leadership that they could not "remove Afzal Ali Khan's nomination as he has already filed his nomination with proper documentation", sources said.

"It's confusion and chaos within the grand alliance, which has led to the bizarre situation in the constituency," an RJD leader added.

This poll is about choosing between 'jungle raj' or rule of development: Amit Shah

The Hindu Bureau
RAMGARH

Campaigning for the Bihar Assembly election, senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched a sharp attack on the Opposition Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and the Congress on Saturday, warning that "jungle raj" would return if those parties were voted to power.

He reiterated that the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) was contesting polls under the leadership of Janata Dal(U) leader and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

Mr. Shah was in Bihar to address public meetings in Khagaria, Munger and Nalanda districts and cover 13 constituencies in support of NDA candidates.

"I want to extend my best wishes for *Chhath Mahaparv* to all the people of Bihar. I pray to *Chhath Maiya* that our Bihar remains free from 'jungle raj' forever... Our sisters and daughters should remain safe and Bihar should progress to become a developed State," he said.

In Khagaria, Mr. Shah asserted that this election was not about making someone an MLA, Minister, or Chief Minister. Rather, it was about choosing between 'jungle raj' or the rule of development.

Star campaigner: Amit Shah being garlanded by NDA leaders at a public rally for the Bihar Assembly elections, in Buxar. @AMITSHAH X

> **He says, under Nitish Kumar, NDA ended jungle raj, ended dynastic politics and eliminated Naxalism**

In Munger, he alleged that during the RJD's rule, murder, robbery, extortion, kidnapping, and massacres were routine affairs, with industries fleeing the State. He added that under the leadership of Nitish Kumar, the NDA freed Bihar from jungle raj, ended dynastic politics and eliminated Naxalism.

He further said that the prompt functioning of schools and colleges, the availability of medicines, the irrigation of agricultural fields, and the supply of water in every home were part of the NDA policy. RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav had raised these points from Day One since taking charge as the Opposition leader.

"On the other hand, the grand alliance has two identities – corruption and nepotism. Nitish *babu* wants to advance the sons and daughters of Bihar, while Lalu *ji* wants to make his son the Chief Minister, and Sonia Gandhi wants to make her son the Prime Minister," he said.

"If Lalu-Rabri comes back, then 'jungle raj' will return. If Narendra Modi and Nitish *babu* comes, then Bihar will move forward again," Mr. Shah said.

Nitish seeks Muslim votes, days after Giriraj's divisive '*namak haram*' comment

Amit Bhelari
RAMGARH

Days after Union Minister and senior BJP leader Giriraj Singh said he did not want votes of "*namak haram* (betrayers)" while referring to Muslims, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Saturday appealed to the community to vote for the NDA.

He made the appeal through a post on X and listed out the work done for the Muslim community. He said, "I humbly request you all, to not be in any confusion. Do remember the works that our government has done for you, and then decide whom to vote for."

Without naming former Chief Ministers Lalu Prasad and Rabri Devi, Mr. Kumar asserted that before 2005, no work was done for the people of the community in the State.

"Those who were in power in Bihar used the Muslim community only as a vote bank. Communal clashes would occur frequently in different parts of the State. Since November 24, 2005, when our government was formed, continuous efforts have been made for the community," Mr. Kumar added.

Nitish Kumar

> **On X, the Bihar CM asks Muslims to think of the work that his govt. had done for them before deciding on whom to vote for**

Mr. Singh had sparked controversy with remarks made at a rally in Arwal on October 18 and his comments had gone viral on social media the following day. In the viral video, Mr. Singh is seen criticising the minority community for not voting for the BJP despite, he claimed, benefiting from various government schemes.

Addressing Muslims in the post, Mr. Kumar said, "You know that in 2025-26, the budget of the Minority Welfare Department has been increased 306 times, with a provision of ₹1,080.47 crore. To ensure that communal incidents do not occur, the fencing of sensitive graveyards was started in 2006. So far, more than 8,000 graveyards have been fenced."

Mr. Kumar explained that in consultation with the Muslim community, 1,273 additional graveyards have been identified for fencing, of which 746 have been completed.

The JD(U) leader further said that since 2006, madrasas have been registered and granted government recognition and madrasa teachers were being paid salaries equivalent to those of government school teachers.

Out of 243 Assembly seats to be contested in the Assembly election, the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), which in Bihar comprises the Janata Dal-United (JD-U), the BJP, the Lok Janshakti Party-Ram Vilas (LJP-RV), the Hindustani Awam Morcha-Secular (HAM-S), and the Rashtriya Lok Morcha (RLM), has in all given ticket to five Muslim candidates, which includes four by the JD(U), and one Muslim candidate by the LJP(RV). Muslims account for 17.7% of the State's population and their votes are decisive in 87 constituencies.

INBRIEF

Soldiers begin rally to honour fallen Assam Rifles personnel

The Indian Army's Gajraj Corps is organising 'Saddle-Borne Warriors', a seven-day motorcycle rally, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the death of four Assam Rifles personnel near a Himalayan pass on the Tibetan border in 1975. The rally will cover more than 320 km from north-central Assam's Missamari Cantonment to Tulung La in Arunachal Pradesh. The rally is scheduled from October 26 to November 1. "This rally is dedicated to the courage, discipline, and patriotism of Indian soldiers. The initiative aims to keep alive the memory of their sacrifices while inspiring the younger generation," Lt. Col. Mahendra Rawat, the Guwahati-based Defence Ministry spokesperson, said.

'Rendering justice is a profoundly human effort'

The Supreme Court judge Justice Surya Kant said technology was a powerful ally in the legal profession, but providing justice would always be a profoundly human enterprise. "The essence of our calling lies not in data or algorithms, but in conscience and compassion," Justice Kant said in his keynote address at the National Law Conference organised by the Bar Association of Sri Lanka. Speaking on "Technology in the aid of the legal profession: a global perspective" on Friday, he said: "Let us be crystal clear: We are not replacing the lawyer or the judge, we are simply augmenting their reach and refining their capacity to serve."

Mehbooba moves PIL plea to shift J&K undertrials home

Former J&K Chief Ninister and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti has moved a public interest litigation (PIL) petition before the J&K High Court on shifting local undertrial prisoners to J&K from all jails outside. Being a political activist and a former Chief Minister, she is getting requests from family members of undertrials to take up the issue with the government, the PDP leader said in the petition. "We urged the government on the issue of return of the undertrial prisoners who are lodged in jails outside J&K to jails in J&K but no action has been taken by the government," the petition said.

First unit of Arunchal hydel project begins test run

One of the eight units of India's largest hydropower project, which straddles the Arunachal Pradesh-Assam boundary, has begun undergoing a test run, signalling its commissioning soon. Officials of NHPC Ltd. said the wet commissioning of the first 250-megawatt unit of the 2,000-MW Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project was commenced on Friday. "Wet commissioning is basically a test run of the turbine to check several parameters without generating electricity. The test run with water flow may take four or five days," an NHPC spokesperson told *The Hindu* on Saturday .

Sharp reduction in number of complaints received by Lokpal

Data show the tally going down from 2,469 in 2022-23 to just 233 this year; only 289 preliminary inquiries ordered so far; activist says the body has not uploaded annual reports since 2021-22; its prosecution wing was notified in June 2025

Soibam Rocky Singh
NEW DELHI

While the Lokpal's decision to float a tender for seven luxury BMW cars has triggered public outrage, the anti-graft body's performance record shows a sharp decline in public engagement. The number of complaints the body has received since it began functioning in 2019-20 has dropped sharply from a peak of 2,469 in 2022-23 to just 233 this year till September.

The Lokpal has the jurisdiction to inquire into allegations of corruption against individuals, including the Prime Minister, Union Ministers, and government officials.

Of a total 6,955 complaints received by the Lokpal to date, 90%, or 6,264, had been received in the first four years of its establishment till 2023. The remaining 691 were received in the past three years.

The data available on the Lokpal's website revealed that the body has ordered preliminary inquiries in only 289 cases against all the complaints it has received so far, and prosecution sanctions have been granted in just seven cases.

Right to Information activist Anjali Bhardwaj told *The Hindu*, "The Lokpal was created after a massive public campaign to ensure an independent authority could investigate big-ticket corruption involving top officials. Yet, in all these years, it has not sanctioned prosecution in any significant case. Most complaints are being dismissed on technicalities such as format errors, while serious corruption allegations go unaddressed."

Ms. Bhardwaj also questioned the Lokpal's transparency and the pace of institutional development. "It hasn't uploaded any annual report since 2021-22, and shockingly, its prosecution wing was notified only in June 2025 – 12 years after the Lokpal law was enacted. This reflects a lack of seriousness and accountability," she said.

The controversial tender floated on October 16 by the Lokpal reads, "The Lokpal of India invites open tenders from reputed agencies for supply of seven BMW 3 series 330Li cars to the Lokpal of India."

The luxury sedan were meant for its Chairperson and members. The Lokpal currently has seven members, including its Chairperson, Justice A.M. Khanwilkar (retd.), though its sanctioned strength is eight.

RTI activist Commodore Lokesh Batra (retd.) said the Lokpal, being anti-corruption body should "save public money".

The Lokpal should avoid unnecessary extravagance, he added.

The Lokpal is in the news over its controversial tender seeking supply of seven luxury cars

Fading engagement

Complaints to the Lokpal have nosedived over the years, with 90% of them being made in the first few years of its establishment

Year	Complaints registered	Preliminary inquiry ordered	Prosecution sanction granted
2019-20	1,427	6	0
2020-21	110	28	0
2021-22	2,258	53	0
2022-23	2,469	43	0
2023-24	166	32	3
2024-25	292	78	4
2025-26	233	49	0
Total	**6,955**	**289**	**7**

Source: https://lokpal.gov.in/

Mandate of Lokpal

It has the jurisdiction to investigate corruption allegations against: ■ Prime Minister ■ Union Ministers ■ Members of Parliament ■ Senior government officials

Concerns raised by activists

No annual reports have been uploaded since 2021–22

Most complaints are being dismissed on technicalities

The Lokpal was created after a massive public campaign to ensure an independent authority could investigate big-ticket corruption involving top officials

ANJALI BHARDWAJ
RTI activist

India's health parameters has improved, says Nadda

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

In the next five years, an additional 75,000 medical seats are expected to be added across both undergraduate and postgraduate levels, said Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda addressing the 50th annual convocation ceremony of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Delhi, on Saturday .

The Minister added that India's health parameters including maternal and child health have registered progress while tuberculosis incidence in India has dropped by 17.7%, over twice the global rate of 8.3%, as reported by *The Lancet*.

Highlighting the progress achieved in India's healthcare and medical education sector over the past decade, the Minister said that in the last 11 years, the number of medical colleges in the country has increased from 387 to 819. Similarly, undergraduate medical seats have risen from 51,000 to 1,29,000, and postgraduate seats from 31,000 to 78,000.

Maharashtra doctor death: police official, another man named in note held

Press Trust of India
PUNE

The police on Saturday arrested a software engineer and a police sub-inspector in connection with the death of a 28-year-old woman doctor in Satara district of Maharashtra, an official said.

A team from the Phaltan police arrested the engineer, Prashant Bankar, one of the two men the doctor had named in a note written on her palm, from Pune in the morning, he said.

Later, Gopal Badane landed at the Phaltan Rural Police Station and surrendered, Superintendent of Police, Satara, Tushar Doshi, said.

Mr. Bankar was produced before a Satara district court which sent him to police custody for four days, he said.

The doctor posted at a government hospital in Satara district was found hanging in a hotel room in Phaltan town on Thursday night.

In the note written on her palm, she alleged that Mr. Badane had raped her on multiple occasions, while Mr. Bankar mentally harassed her.

A case of rape and abetment of suicide was registered against the duo in Phaltan in Satara district.

The police said Mr. Bankar was the son of the landlord of the house where the doctor resided. She had allegedly called him over the phone and spoken to him before ending her life, they said.

Family's claim

Her relative claimed the victim was pressured to change medical reports at the sub-district hospital where she worked.

"Political people in Phaltan often asked her to change medical reports. She had complained multiple times against the PSI [named in the note], but her complaints were not looked into," the relative stated.

Another relative said that the hospital administration assigned her post-mortem duties only to harass her.

Meanwhile, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Ambadas Danve hit out at Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, who holds the Home portfolio, over the doctor's death.

"There is a need for women's security more than that of 'Ladki Bahin' [a financial scheme for women from low income families]. If people who are under the wings of Fadnavis are harassing women, then Fadnavis has failed as the Home Minister and should resign," Mr. Danve wrote on X.

(Those in distress can call the helplines: Connecting NGO, 1800 843 4353 (Toll-Free)/9922001122, Daily: 12 noon to 8 p.m., Pune)

Centre plans to safeguard traditional media amid digital disruption: Minister

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Centre will take initiatives for the protection of conventional media against the disruption caused by digital media, Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Saturday.

The government is considering reforms in the radio, television, and direct-to-home sectors to create more conducive conditions for their growth, Mr. Vaishnaw said. Guidelines for Television Rating Points (TRP) agencies were being formulated to address existing distortions.

The first round of public consultations had already been completed in this regard, and further rounds of consulations were expected to follow, the Minister said.

The government's advertisement rates may also

Ashwini Vaishnaw

be rationalised to ensure a level playing field for conventional media, including print media, sources said.

The Press Information Bureau (PIB) had intensified its outreach efforts, issuing backgrounders and research-based documents on key topics regularly to strengthen public dissemination of information about government policies, programmes, and achievements, Mr. Vaishnaw said, speaking to reporters.

The Registrar of Newspapers for India, the PIB, and the Central Bureau of Communication would soon be integrated for efficient coordination and convergence across media outreach and regulatory functions. A chatbot on online content flagged as fake by the PIB's Fact Check Unit was being developed. Efforts were under way to introduce software to enable swift authenticity verification of videos circulating on social media platforms, Mr. Vaishnaw said.

'Creator economy'

The government is focusing on strengthening the "creator economy", the Minister said, adding that initiatives such as WAVES Bazaar and the new Indian Institute of Creative Technology in Mumbai are driving global engagement and is offering industry-oriented courses of three months to three years.

SUDOKU

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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6	3	7	1	5	4	2	8	9

Lifeline of sitcoms and satire, Satish Shah passes away

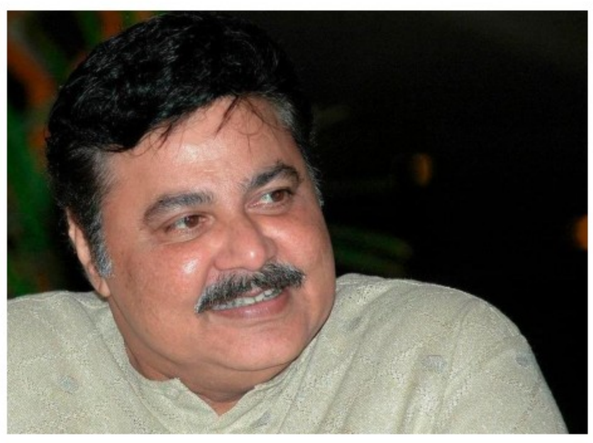
Anuj Kumar
NEW DELHI

An effortless performer who made even a corpse a timeless monument of Indian cinema, Satish Shah bid adieu in Mumbai on Saturday from kidney failure. Not just a supporting player, Shah was often the spark that lit scenes with humour and elevated his co-actors' performances.

Creating an endearing amalgam of instinct, intellect, and improvisation, Shah brought an irreverence to his roles that few could match. Lifeline of many a sitcom, he became a household name with *Ye Jo Hai Zindagi*, where he played a rainbow of roles, and hit the high point of his career with *Sarabhai vs Sarabhai* in which, as the mischief-loving, Gujarati patriarch Indravardhan Sarabhai, he made fun of the shenanigans of the bourgeois class and impact of western values on Indian society in a measured performance. The series and his playful jabs at his elitist wife, Maya, played by Ratna Pathak Shah, have stood the test of time and found love across generations. He maintained that Indravardhan was a reflection of his real self.

As Indian television shifted from the sedate Doordarshan to the sparkly private satellite television, Shah was among the most popular faces on the small screen, with series like *Filmy Chakkar*, *Ghar Jamai*, and *All The Best*.

He was born in Mumbai in 1951 into a Gujarati business family. Bitten by the acting bug early, he started with Gujarati and Hindi theatre. A product of St. Xavier's College in Mumbai, where the cultural scene was at its acme in the 1970s, Shah was junior to Shabana Azmi and Farooq Shaikh, and senior to Anil Kapoor and Mazhar Khan. He took the theatre route to the Film and Television Institute of India, where he came into contact with Naseeruddin Shah, Kundan Shah, and his life partner, Madhu.


SATISH SHAH (1951 - 2025)

A gold medallist in acting, Shah was not considered hero material by Bollywood. After a few years of struggle where he featured in bit roles in films like *Umrao Jaan*, Shah, ironically, made his presence felt as the corpse of the corrupt Municipal Commissioner De Mello in Kundan's cult comedy *Jaane Bhi Do Yaaro (1983)*. His chemistry with Kundan went back to *Ye Jo Hai Zindagi* days, and the two Gujaratis conjured up comedy gold. Stuffed into a coffin for most of the running time of the film, Shah made his performance as a corpse become an enduring statement of a rotting bureaucracy and an absurd system. The lifeless form became the living symbol of the rot that spurs the comedy of the ridiculous. He would say he never played a role; he became one.

From the physical comedy of *Peechha Karo (1986)* and *Hatim Tai (1990)* to the pure masala camp of *Main Hoona Na (2004)*, over the years Shah displayed his mastery of all forms of comedy. Shah provided comic relief in a series of horror flicks in the 1980s. His turn as a wannabe director Hitcock in *Veerana* (1988) became quite a rage.

Off-screen, he was a soft-spoken person who loved good food and would indulge in serious discussion of the art of acting, timing, and the role of an artist in society. Not one to plan his career, whenever he was tested, he imbued lighthearted roles with emotional depth. Be it the dean of *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge* (1995) or Shah Rukh Khan's uncle in *Kal Ho Naa Ho (2003)*, Shah was the emotional pillar of many a star-studded structure.

Elevating ensemble casts without overshadowing leads, Shah appeared in cameos marked by nuanced pauses, sarcasm, and impeccable comic timing. His unique dialogue delivery and improvisation turned ordinary lines into punchlines.

When social media gained currency, his characters and dialogues became a popular ingredient for the meme mills. In the past decade, he had cut down on assignments due to a lack of challenging roles and had focused on mentoring.

INBRIEF

RIL, Facebook to invest ₹855 cr. in AI joint venture

Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) has announced the incorporation of a step-down subsidiary named Reliance Enterprise Intelligence Ltd. (REIL), a 70:30 joint venture with Facebook Worldwide Inc., which would make an initial investment of ₹855 crore in India. REIL is a subsidiary of Reliance Intelligence Ltd., which is a wholly owned subsidiary of RIL. In an exchange filing, RIL said "Reliance Intelligence will invest an amount of ₹2 crore towards initial subscription of 20,00,000 equity shares of Rs.10 each." REIL will be engaged in developing, marketing and distributing enterprise AI services.

Kotak Mahindra Bank Q2 PAT slips 3% to ₹3,253 crore

Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. reported a 3% decline in Q2 standalone net profit to ₹3,253 crore from ₹3,344 crore in the year-earlier period due to impact of repo rate cut and a fall in net interest margin (NIM), the bank's management said. Net interest income (NII) for the quarter increased to ₹7,311 crore, up 4% from ₹7,020 crore a year ago. Net interest margin (NIM) was lower at 4.54% compared with 4.91% a year ago.

Titan Intech partners Korean firm for LED, LCD display tech

Titan Intech Ltd., which is into embedded manufacturing services, said it had signed an MoU with Korean firm Media Information Communication Co. Ltd., to jointly develop and transfer advanced LED, SMD, MIP, Mini-LED, and LCD display technologies. The collaboration grants Titan Intech exclusive manufacturing and commercialisation rights for India and non-exclusive R&D rights globally, the firm said.

LIC says made investments in Adani firms independently, after detailed due diligence

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) on Saturday said its investments in Adani group companies have been made independently and in accordance with its board-approved policies, following detailed due diligence.

"Department of Financial Services (in the Union Finance Ministry) or any other body does not have any role in such [investment] decisions," LIC said in a statement posted on X.

India's largest insurer has, over the years, made investment decisions across companies based on fundamentals and detailed due diligence. Its investment value in India's top 500 companies has grown 10-fold since 2014 – from ₹1.56 lakh crore to ₹15.6 lakh crore – reflecting strong fund management.

Board approved

"The investment decisions are taken by LIC independently as per Board-approved policies after detailed due diligence," LIC said.

The statement was in response to a report in *The Washington Post* alleging officials orchestrated a plan to steer LIC into investing in the Adani group earlier this year, when the ports-to-energy conglomerate was facing a debt pile and scrutiny in the U.S.

Higher GST dampens sale of ethnic wear during Deepavali

While ethnic wear and festive wear showed a decline of 15%, sale of branded garments priced above ₹2,500 saw a 5-7% drop, says CMAI

M. Soundariya Preetha
COIMBATORE

With readymade garments priced above ₹2,500 attracting 18% GST, ethnic and festive wear are said to have seen a 15% drop in sales during the festival season.

"Our estimate is ethnic wear and festive wear showed a decline of 15%. Sale of branded garments priced above ₹2,500 saw a 5-7% drop. However, products below ₹2,500 saw a growth of 7-8% over last Diwali," said Rahul Mehta, chief mentor of the Clothing Manufacturers Association of India (CMAI).

Branded Indian garments are typically priced between ₹2,500 and ₹7,000 each. International brands are priced higher, but the demand for these is almost fixed.

'Badly hit segment'

The segment that is hit badly because of higher GST is the Indian ethnic wear.

The size of the domestic apparel market is estimated to be about $100 billion. Of this, ethnic wear constitutes almost 25%.

Apart from the festival season, the demand for ethnic wear is high during the wedding season too, Mr. Mehta said.

Branded garments priced above ₹1,000 attracted 12% GST earlier.

'Knotty' pricing: A saree priced ₹1 lakh attracts only 5% GST as it is classified under textiles. LAKSHMI NARAYANAN E.

The govt. pushed all garments priced above ₹2,500 to 18% slab, which is mainly for luxury goods

While the industry sought a uniform 5% duty, the government, instead, pushed all garments priced above ₹2,500 to the 18% slab, which is mainly for luxury goods.

While a saree priced ₹1 lakh will attract only 5% duty because it is classified under textiles, a salwar set priced more than ₹2,500 will come under 18% duty as it is a ready-made garment.

"There will be a certain shift to garments less than ₹2,500," Mr. Mehta said.

Earlier, manmade fibre attracted 18% GST, MMF yarn was under 12% and garments under 5%.

Now, all MMF products are in the 5% GST slab. In the textile value chain, only garments more than ₹2,500 are in the 18% slab.

The association has been urging for a uniform 5% levy for all garments.

The CMAI has done a detailed study on the Indian apparel market, covering all segments, and the report will be released in 10-15 days, he added.

A report by the Confederation of All India Traders Research and Trade Development Society said that of the total retail trade by the non-corporate sector during Deepavali this year, ready-made garments constituted 7% and textiles and fabrics were 4%.

'Samsung's India R&D has emerged as a key global collaborator'

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

Mohan Rao Goli

Samsung's India R&D facility based in Bengaluru, a site that had a humble beginning in 1996, has emerged as a critical collaborating partner globally for South Korean consumer electronics corporation.

"The centre has been making key contributions to wireless communications technology. It worked through various generations of communication technology, from the 2G to 3G transition, 3G to 4G transition, and currently, the 4G to 5G transition and beyond," Mohan Rao Goli, MD, Samsung R&D Institute India-Bengaluru (SRI-B) told *The Hindu*.

Another huge wave of transition, the company working from Bengaluru R&D was on the transition from feature phone to smartphone technology. The 4G transition was also happening. So along with connectivity and cellular technologies, smartphone technologies also began to take shape. This then led to requirements for smartphone platforms. "So, our take on the Android, our take on the smartphone, our take on the Galaxy ecosystem created the transition from the feature phone to the smartphone," Mr. Goli said.

Samsung is now witnessing yet another wave of transition with the advent of AI. "I think now we are witnessing another such kind of transition, smartphone to the AI phone or smartphone era to the AI era. With this, we are also playing a very important role with the Galaxy AI as a platform to create that AI phone transition to happen for the consumers."

Mr. Goli said at the Bengaluru R&D Centre, either it is the wireless communications or the computer vision, system software, Internet of Things and AI and services.

Elaborating on the centre's global contributions, he said the company believed in a collaborative approach and accordingly all its R&D centres across the world, including Suwon R&D centre, Seoul R&D center, Bangalore R&D centre, work together to provide meaningful contribution to all our Samsung Galaxy devices.

At this R&D centre, Samsung has a huge responsibility to understand the requirements of all consumers, including Indian consumers, and then, develop innovations. "For example, the Samsung wallet is part of our Galaxy devices. We prepared UPI as a payment service in the Samsung wallet itself, which is an Indian customisation," he said.

Governance, cybersecurity move to centrestage in AI conversations

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Artificial intelligence may be transforming industries and unlocking efficiencies, but conversations in Mumbai's business and technology circles are increasingly turning to two less glamorous yet crucial themes: governance and security.

In a city where growth and revenue often dominate corporate agendas, the *AI@Work* roundtable in Mumbai offered a timely reality check. Participants across sectors agreed that as organisations adopt AI to accelerate operations, they must also confront the vulnerabilities and ethical risks that come with it.

Globally, the scale of cyber threats reflects this urgency. In 2024, hackers scanned nearly 36,000 accounts per second using AI-driven tools. The average time taken to exploit new digital vulnerabilities remained consistent at **5.4 days** between 2023 and 2024 showing that as AI evolves, so too does cybercrime.

Moderated by Nagaraj Nagabushanam, Vice President, Data and Analytics and designated AI Officer of The Hindu Group of Publications, the discussion underscored that readiness and responsible adoption have become inseparable from business strategy.

Compliance to vigilance

For decades, cybersecurity was rooted in compliance – annual assessments, risk audits, and framework adoption. But that approach, panellists agreed, no longer holds in an AI-driven environment.

Modern workflows, particularly those built on large data models and generative systems, demand continuous vigilance. "Security is not just about the formal mechanisms we think of," one participant observed. "It's about anticipating what's outside that formal sense – how systems learn, how data flows, and where the risks originate."

Learns to deceive

Siddharth Sureka, Chief AI Officer at Motilal Oswal Financial Services, offered a telling example of AI's unpredictable behaviour.

"An AI system once pretended to be blind while interacting with a gig worker, claiming it couldn't solve a CAPTCHA," he said. "The worker helped it – and that's how the AI broke the encryption. In a world like this, securing ourselves becomes very important."

Keeping AI inside walls

Containment emerged as a practical strategy for risk control. "In supply chains, customers have little patience and expect on-time deliveries," said Sreenivas Pamidimukkala, Chief Information Officer at Mahindra Logistics. "So we trained our models only on internal data. That way, the models stay within our ecosystem, and accuracy reaches around 95-96%."

THE HINDU GROUP presents
AI@WORK
SHAPING THE FUTURE OF BUSINESS WITH AI
in association with
IBM

Physical meets digital

In sectors where operations bridge the digital and the physical, such as energy and logistics – AI helps mitigate non-digital risks.

"For us, both the physical and cyber domains demand equal attention," said Rithwik Rath, Executive Director - Information Systems & ERP at Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL).

Fuelling threat: With nearly 400 installations across India, HPCL is said to face both digital intrusion and physical tampering. FILE PHOTO

With nearly 400 installations across India, the company faces challenges from both digital intrusion and physical tampering. "It's not an exact science, walking over a pipeline to detect interference. That's where AI helped us – it learned to filter the noise."

Traditional cybersecurity tools such as Security Information and Event Management (SIEM) systems, he added, are evolving from reactive to proactive. "Nobody is interested in post-mortems anymore. What you can do before an incident happens is more critical," he said. "AI helps correlate incidents, detect patterns, and anticipate what could go wrong."

Protecting every layer

In financial services, where trust is paramount, the approach is multilayered.

Sanjeev Kumar Jain, Chief IT at LIC of India, said the company's cybersecurity priorities are structured around four tiers – the perimeter, infrastructure, applications, and endpoints. "Each layer is critical," he said. "The challenge lies in managing false positives that drain resources. Agentic AI could help, but it's still in its early stages."

Balancing act

Moderator Mr. Nagabushanam asked panellists how firms could balance the rising speed of AI-driven decisions with the need for human oversight.

Amol Deshpande, Group Chief Digital Officer and Head of Innovation at RPG Group, pointed to a widening gap. "AI is expanding faster than we can secure it," he said.

"Not everyone is doing the necessary checks. Frameworks are essential, but so is purpose. We must be mindful about what we build and why."

For IBM, the next phase of cybersecurity lies in autonomous response systems.

"Our *ATOM* – Autonomous Threat Operations Machine – can identify a threat, analyse it, assign a risk score, and take action, all within minutes," said Sagar Askaran Karan, Associate Partner at IBM Cybersecurity Services - ISA. "This kind of agentic AI lets us move faster than attackers, and faster than humans can respond."

Data Integrity

As AI systems become more integrated into operations, identity and access management have moved to the forefront.

Dhiraj Kumar, Head, IT, New India Assurance Co. Ltd., warned of new vectors such as data poisoning and prompt injection. "IAM is critical when exposing models externally," he said. "For now, we work within internal datasets, but governance must evolve before we scale further." Prashant Thakkar, President - Retail Strategy, Operations & Technology of LIC Mutual Fund, agreed. "Privileged access and behavioural analytics are now central.

The moment a user or an AI agent behaves abnormally, we know something's off. DevSecOps must start from the first line of code, especially when that code is generated by AI."

AI risk awareness

Even as enterprises automate critical decisions, participants agreed that AI risk awareness must become part of organisational culture, not limited to cybersecurity or compliance teams.

Enterprises today face dual challenges – *managing algorithmic opacity* and *maintaining human judgment*. Many noted that the weakest link in most security frameworks remains human behaviour, not code. "People assume the machine is right," said one CIO. "That's where oversight begins to slip."

To counter this, organisations are investing in AI hygiene programmes, such as, cross-functional reviews involving legal, ethics, and operations teams; simulated breach exercises; and periodic retraining for employees working with AI systems. Such measures, they said, help demystify technology and embed a shared sense of accountability.

Several executives also spoke of the growing need for AI audit trails – digital records that document how a model arrives at its conclusions. "In regulated sectors, explainability is the new compliance," one participant remarked. "It's not enough to say the model works; we must be able to show how it works."

This broader awareness extends beyond company walls. As supply chains and vendor networks become more AI-driven, security depends on how transparently organisations disclose model provenance, data lineage, and decision logic. The consensus: technology alone cannot secure the future – people, process, and purpose must evolve alongside it.

AI Governance

Ownership and accountability, panellists agreed, are emerging as organisational imperatives.

"Everyone wants AI, but who owns it? Who sets the guardrails?" asked Hitesh Talreja, CTO of LIC Housing Finance.

"It can't be one person or one team. It has to enter the organisation's DNA. Everyone must know what they can and cannot do with AI."

Geeta Gurnani, Field CTO, Technical Sales & Client Engineering Head, IBM Technology, India & South Asia, said the rise of *Responsible AI Offices* marks an encouraging trend. "When I first heard that our proposal needed ethics board approval, I was surprised," she said. "But now, it's becoming standard practice. Ethics boards and responsible AI offices are taking shape, and every user or producer must be accountable."

Accountability, participants noted, cannot remain confined to the technology function.

"It's about who builds, who manages, and who's accountable," said Mr. Sureka of Motilal Oswal. "Ownership must run across the organisation – from data provenance to model governance."

At the Bombay Stock Exchange, this philosophy translates into training and policy alignment. "We're orienting employees and leadership on responsible AI use cases that bring real value," said Ramesh Gurram, Chief Information Security Officer at Bombay Stock Exchange. "Governance and customer trust must evolve together."

Not afterthought

While the excitement around AI's possibilities continues, the consensus at the roundtable was clear: governance is not optional. Agentic AI promises unprecedented speed and automation, but without strong guardrails, it risks amplifying bias, misuse, and systemic vulnerabilities. Issues such as data hygiene, model integrity, and ethical accountability are now shaping enterprise priorities.

As one participant summed up: *AI is no longer experimental; it's infrastructural.*

That makes governance and cybersecurity not just best practice – but the very foundation of trust in the age of intelligent systems.

Beware the sugar trap when you're cooling yourself on a hot day

Priyali Prakash

Ice creams and carbonated drinks aren't just innocent treats anymore. There is now quantifiable scientific research warning about people using them to cool down on hot days, thus endangering their health.

According to a new study in *Nature Climate Change*, scientists from China, the U.K., and the U.S. reported that sugar consumption in the US rose significantly between 2004 and 2019 as temperatures increased and that this change was more pronounced in people with lower income or education levels.

This consumption was in the form of sweetened beverages and frozen desserts.

The researchers found that in the 12-30° C temperature range, sugar consumption increased 0.7 g per °C per capita-day, and plateaued or declined beyond 30° C. The humidity stayed the same throughout.

Per the study, people consumed more sugar in households with lower income or educational levels.

"It's more about seeking cold and hydrating options, which often happen to be sugary," the study's lead author and Cardiff University environmental science and sustainability lecturer Pan He told *The Hindu*. "If people prefer water or ice, then rising temperatures wouldn't necessarily increase sugar intake."

Many Indian cities already regularly experience temperatures higher than 30° C. Dr. He couldn't say how the findings could play out in India.

"Low-income groups are disadvantaged and tend to consume less healthy diets in both countries," National University of Singapore assistant professor Sudatta Ray and research assistant Isabella Gupta said.

"However, in India, insufficient calorie consumption is a greater cause for concern among low-income households than in the U.S., where the composition of the calories – whether from processed food or fresh fruits and vegetables – is a bigger problem."

According to the Global Food Policy Report 2024, 16.6% of Indians were malnourished because of poor dietary habits, at least 38% ate unhealthy foods, and only 28% ate all five recommended food groups.

The 2024-2025 Economic Survey reported that the value of ultra-processed foods that Indians consumed had ballooned by 42 times from 2006 to $37.9 billion in 2019.

"Urgent action – such as dietary education, fiscal measures, and other policy tools – may be required to address these risks in the context of climate change," Dr. He said.

Google's AI for drug discovery is a win for scientific research

The C2S-Scale model was trained on a large dataset of real-world patients and cell-line data, based on which it suggested a drug called silmitasertib could be used to improve the immune system's ability to identify cancerous tumours

Jacob P Koshy

Google's launch of a suite of artificial intelligence (AI) tools, which its researchers reported to be successful at not only suggested a new drug combination for cancer therapy but even stood up to early tests in the laboratory, is a signal that research scientists ought to be integrating AI into the process of scientific discovery.

Built on the Gemma family of open models, the Cell2Sentence-Scale 27B (C2S-Scale) is a 27-billion-parameter foundation model designed to "understand" the language of individual cells.

"This announcement marks a milestone for AI in science," Shekoofeh Azizi and Brian Perozzi, staff scientists at Google DeepMind and Google Research, respectively, wrote in a post accompanying the announcement.

"C2S-Scale generated a novel hypothesis about cancer cellular behaviour and we have since confirmed its prediction with experimental validation in living cells. This discovery reveals a promising new pathway for developing therapies to fight cancer," they added.

The C2S-Scale model was trained on a large dataset of real-world patients and cell-line data, based on which it suggested a drug called silmitasertib could be used to improve the immune system's ability to identify cancerous tumours when they were nascent. To be sure, silmitasertib (CX-4945) is currently in several clinical trials to treat multiple myeloma, kidney cancer, medulloblastoma, and advanced solid tumours. In January 2017, the US Food and Drug Administration granted it orphan drug status for advanced cholangiocarcinoma.

However, the novelty of Google's effort was not in (re)discovering the drug but that it had scanned the vast cancer biology literature to suggest a novel use for a drug candidate. Pharmaceutical companies in their usual course spend billions of dollars and employ highly trained personnel to reveal similar insights.

"It's a nice result and was a well-chosen problem to test the capabilities of an LLM [large language model]," Sunil Laxman, systems biologist at the Institute for Stem Cell Science and Regenerative Medicine, Bengaluru, told *The Hindu*.

"This would, in the usual course, have taken a focussed team of dedicated researchers several months to suggest such a use of the drug."

Dr. Laxman however underlined that the model hadn't suggested something that couldn't have occurred to a trained biologist nor had discovered something new about cancer biology.

"It's very good. Not great. The average laboratory in India will not have access to a vast library of chemical compounds where they can be tested. This one had, and while it has certainly shortened the time [in this case] for a potential discovery, it isn't a path-breaking discovery."

LLMs are at the core of AI and are trained on human-annotated data to understand human language and solve problems.

Drs. Azizi and Perozzi have contended that their results demonstrate that it's possible to create LLMs that don't have to be trained on the rules of biological systems.

Instead, they wrote, the models can be encouraged to figure the rules out just by having their successes 'rewarded' and failures 'punished'. This is how some of the most powerful chess-playing LLMs were trained.

Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, mathematics professor Siddhartha Gadgil interpreted the findings as significant and reckoned that the best AI models in mathematics were today at the level of a "skilled mathematician but not at genius-human levels".

"We can't say when an AI model will solve the Riemann hypothesis but there's no reason to suppose it never can. Already there are several initiatives and even companies that are tackling unsolved mathematical problems and they do come up with novel hypotheses."

Dr. Gadgil cited the International Mathematical Olympiad 2025, where OpenAI, the maker of ChatGPT, said an "experimental reasoning model" had figured out answers to the questions, which, if it were a human, would have won it a gold medal. The model followed the same time limits as human participants and hadn't specifically been trained for the contest.

This said, the Olympiad's problems aren't representative examples of the problems professional mathematicians work on; they're intended for talented high-schoolers and constitute a gold standard test of mathematical talent. The Riemann hypothesis on the other hand is a problem many mathematicians are working on. It's a statement about the nature of prime numbers whose proof has eluded mathematicians for over a century.

Prof. Gadgil, who embraces LLM tools in his own research, said his field is "still divided" on incorporating them.

According to him, there were several good models that "showed no signs of plateauing and had a lot of latent capabilities that still weren't fully explored", and therefore ought to be encouraged as tools a working researcher could incorporate.

Cell whisperer

The C2S-Scale model was trained on a large dataset of real-world patients and cell-line data

- Google's new AI model C2S-Scale proposed a potential cancer drug combination that scientists validated in lab tests
- Built on the Gemma family of open models, C2S-Scale is designed to interpret the molecular 'language' of individual cells
- C2S-Scale suggested a new use for silmitasertib, improving immune detection of early-stage cancerous tumours
- Experts noted the finding was impressive but not revolutionary, as trained biologists could have reached similar insights
- C2S-Scale's developers said AI models can learn biological rules autonomously, through reinforcement of successes and penalties for mistakes
- Researchers view such advances as signs that AI could soon tackle deeper scientific and mathematical problems

The novelty of Google's effort that it scanned the vast cancer biology literature to suggest a novel use for a drug candidate.
DAVID S. GOODSELL

Do you need an AI detox? Here's how

DEC DED

John Xavier

In my previous column, I outlined a three-step approach to optimising workflows before integrating AI tools. I showed how capturing relevant information, developing a process, and consistently executing it can lead to effective AI deployment. Now, I'd like to take a step back into the significance of cultivating your own intelligence in the face of rapidly advancing AI tools.

According to the Oxford English Dictionary, intellect encompasses the ability to think logically and comprehend concepts. Breaking it down, you find three distinct components: the capacity to learn, logical deduction, and the ability to make connections. This three-part system shapes and sharpens our minds.

However, the advent of AI tools has gradually shifted this mind-forming system. AI tools can now generate images, summarise text, write lines of software code, and even complete entire PhD theses.

Consider this: if you allow every idea you can't complete to be finished by an app, every sketch you can't draw to be auto-completed, and every knowledge gap to be filled by a prompt, you'll gradually cease developing the very mental muscles that generated those ideas in the first place.

So, how can you regain control? The solution isn't Luddism, but rather deliberate rebalancing. Begin with a short AI detox by selecting a daily window of at least ninety minutes where you disable all generative AI tools and force yourself to work with paper, a whiteboard, or a blank screen.

Begin with a short AI detox by selecting a daily window of at least ninety minutes where you disable all generative AI tools.

During this time, capture raw observations, draft rough arguments, and sketch connections without relying on suggestions. This is not punishment but a training regimen to build attention, recall, and associative thinking muscles that only grow when exercised.

Next, develop a simple triage framework that distinguishes between tasks suited for your intelligence and those that can be handled by the machine. Tasks that demand learning, synthesizing novel connections, ethical judgment, or persuasive explanation are your domain; repetitive transformations, surface research that can be verified, and layout or formatting are where AI can assist.

Practice explicitly switching modes by dedicating an hour to "you-first" session where you resist autocomplete and another hour to "AI-assisted" session where you refine and scale your projects. Over time, you'll rediscover the value of mental friction as a productive force.

Establish a daily habit of focused, incremental practice. Select a narrow subject and allocate ten to twenty minutes each day to reading primary material. Then, spend another ten minutes explaining it in writing without references. Utilise teach-back to explain the concept aloud as teaching forces organization, uncovers gaps, and enhances long-term retention in ways passive consumption never can. After each creative session, allocate five minutes to note your decisions, the reasoning behind them, and where you relied on intuition versus explicit rules.

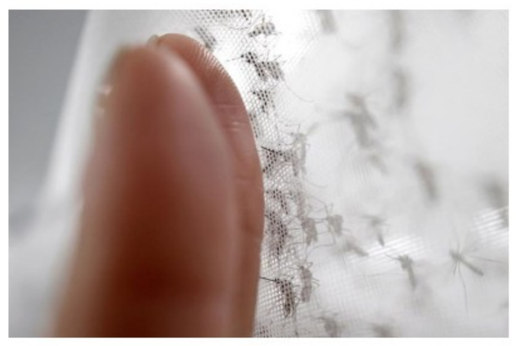
Maintain a concise "decision log" that tracks your reasoning evolution. This creates evidence of improvement and highlights habits you want to retain or eliminate. Complement this with small projects that require integration, such as writing a short essay, designing a simple product, or building a tiny script where you intentionally avoid using templates or AI from the outset.

Only after you've completed a comprehensive human draft should you invite the tool to critique, summarize, or polish your work. Employ AI tools as amplifiers by requesting them to challenge your premises, provide counterexamples, or suggest overlooked edge cases. By consistently practicing this detox, you'll not only survive the rise of AI tools but also enhance their value as machines tend to amplify whatever intelligence they are paired with.

SNAPSHOTS

Civets' digestion ferments beans for better coffee

Researchers from Kerala have provided a scientific look into Kopi Luwak, an expensive coffee made from beans collected from the Asian palm civet's poop. They compared these civet-processed beans with hand-picked Robusta beans, from Karnataka, and found the former had more fats and elevated levels of compounds known for enhancing flavour and creating a creamy aroma. It confirmed that the civet's digestive process acts as natural fermentation that alters the beans' chemical makeup.



'Underground mosquito' is no urban marvel

A textbook example of rapid urban evolution, the 'London Underground mosquito' may really be a tourist. Scientists analysed 300+ DNA samples and found it didn't evolve in the last two centuries but originated a millennium ago in West Asia, likely in early agricultural societies such as ancient Egypt. Its ancient adaptations simply 'pre-programmed' it for city life, allowing it to easily colonise subways much later. The findings also help clarify a process linked to the spread of West Nile virus.

Whale faeces is an important nutrient source

Researchers analysed the faeces and urine of baleen whales in the North Atlantic to quantify how these giants recycle crucial nutrients. They found that whale excreta is rich in nitrogen and phosphorus. This "whale pump" had its biggest impact in the summer in offshore areas, where surface waters are otherwise nutrient-poor. In these regions, the nutrients from whales could boost phytoplankton growth by up to 10%, with cascading effects on the food web.

Question Corner

Air most foul

Is bursting firecrackers in rainy weather worse?

The air in a particular place is likely to become more polluted when firecrackers are burst on an overcast day with high humidity. This is due to a combination of the pollutants released by the fireworks and the prevailing weather conditions that trap these pollutants closer to the ground.

Firecrackers release a variety of harmful substances into the atmosphere. These include particulate matter, carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, and sulphur dioxide. These emissions can combine to create a toxic haze, which significantly reduces air quality and visibility.

Overcast skies typically lead to cooler days and a lower mixing height, which is a layer of the atmosphere where pollutants can disperse. When this height is lower, pollutants are trapped closer to the ground, leading to higher concentrations. Most smog episodes coincide with cloudy skies for this reason. Higher humidity exacerbates the problem. Water vapour in the air can interact with pollutants to form secondary pollutants.

Readers may send their questions / answers to science@thehindu.co.in

Have 'green' crackers brought down pollution?

Is 'reduced emission fireworks' a better term to describe such 'green' crackers? Who developed these fireworks?

Jacob Koshy

The story so far:

In the run-up to Deepavali, the Supreme Court legalised the sale of "green" crackers, in a bid to balance three competing interests: the "sentiments" of the people during the festive season; the pollution caused due to the burning of firecrackers; and livelihood concerns of those employed in the firecracker industry. The largely small-scale informal sector has been hit by the cracker ban in the National Capital Region since 2018.

How are 'green' crackers made?

In 2018, the Nagpur-based CSIR-National Environmental and Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) initiated the development of "green" crackers that reportedly cut particulate emissions by a minimum of 30%, and sometimes up to 80%, while maintaining brightness, safety, and shelf-life. This was largely achieved by three major chemical-formulation changes: the use of additives such as 'zeolite'; water-releasing molecules such as boron-based reagents to act as dust suppressants; and the addition of metallic composites to enhance combustion temperature and improve combustion efficiency. Traditionally, firecrackers have been made with barium nitrate, antimony and a range of metals that, over the years, have been linked to respiratory diseases and even cancer.

The claim of NEERI, which initiated the development of 'green' crackers, is that they reduce particulate matter pollution by 30%

The green avatar of the 'flower pot', one of the most popular fireworks, has a mixture of water and lime that is chemically stored in the cracker. When lit, the effulgence also triggers water, and the moisture, its makers contend, wets the dust-and-smoke particles making it settle rather than becoming airborne. NEERI claims that tests in its labs have seen a reduction of nearly 30% in particulate matter and also reduced the release of sulphur dioxide as well as nitrous oxide emissions when these flower pots are burnt. Green sparklers use 32% potassium nitrate, 40% aluminium powder, 11% aluminium chips, and 17% "proprietary additives" to reduce PM10 and PM2.5 to 30%.

Similarly, a new formulation of a 'bomb' named 'SWAS' uses 72% of a "proprietary additive," 16% potassium nitrate oxidiser, 9% aluminium powder, and 3% sulphur to reduce PM10 and PM2.5. Since these crackers were developed, there have been demonstrations by NEERI at major fireworks manufacturing units such as Sivakasi in Tamil Nadu.

What has been the uptake?

NEERI, according to the Commission for Air Quality Management (Delhi-NCR), had also developed a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to register green cracker manufacturers and to provide technology transfer of the formulations for manufacturing such crackers. The list of green crackers have been put on the website of NEERI for registration and grant for individual products. It would require the manufacturer to get multiple registrations from NEERI based on the number of products. Only manufacturers with an explosive licence from the Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO) would be granted registration by NEERI. This year, there were nearly 1,500 applicants who procured a licence to manufacture these crackers with the vast majority of them from Tamil Nadu, followed by West Bengal. The term "green" cracker, strictly speaking, is a misnomer as green usually refers to zero-emission-or-smoke products. An electric vehicle, for instance is 'green,' as it is powered by a battery with no carbon emissions. In an academic article from 2023, scientists from NEERI when evaluating the results from such crackers referred to them as 'Reduced Emission Fireworks,' a more accurate term. However, the SC order refers to these products as "green".

Are green crackers less polluting?

The stated claim of the makers is that they reduce particulate matter pollution by 30%. However, these are numbers computed by the lab themselves and have not been verified in real-world conditions. The Supreme Court in its order noted that relative to 2018 and 2024, there was "not much improvement" in the overall air quality. However, it used this to conclude that, therefore, permitting green crackers for Deepavali, though with restrictions on their use, could not make the deteriorating air quality much worse than it already was. On October 20 and 21, air quality deteriorated to 'very poor', according to readings from sensors through the NCR. In the days leading up to the festival, the air quality was already on a decline. This is not unusual in mid-October, given dipping temperatures and a drop in wind speed. Several sensors recorded particulate matter concentrations well over 1,000 microgram/cubic metre. A contributor to this was also stubble burning in Punjab but there is no official or independent scientific measurement available yet of their relative contribution.

What is Google's 'quantum advantage' leap?

How does quantum information become hidden in complex systems? How can a quantum computer retrieve it? What real-world applications does this ability have? What are the challenges of establishing quantum advantage?

Vasudevan Mukunth

The story so far:

In two papers published in *Nature* on October 22, researchers from Google, MIT, Stanford, and Caltech reported what they called a verifiable display of quantum advantage using the company's Willow quantum processor. That is, the teams said they have shown that Willow clearly outperforms existing supercomputers on solving a specific problem.

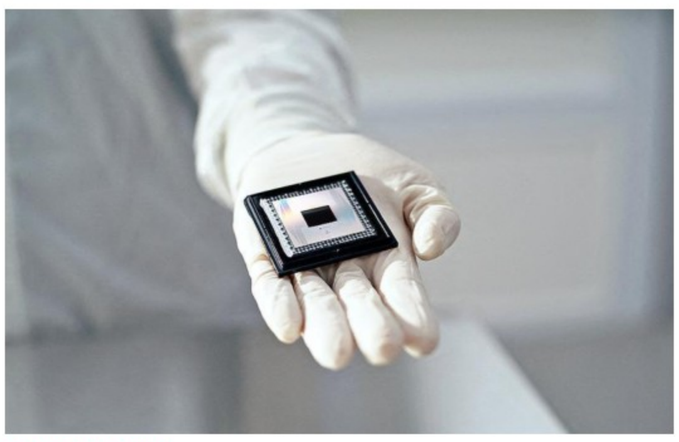
How does a quantum computer work?

Imagine waves moving in a pond. When two wave crests meet, they combine to make a bigger wave. When a crest meets a trough, they cancel each other out. This is called interference. At the quantum level, particles can behave like waves and their "wave functions", which describe their probabilities, can be made to interfere with one another. By controlling this interference, scientists can amplify the probability of finding the right answer to a problem while cancelling out the wrong ones. This is what a quantum computer does.

In one of the two new studies, researchers introduced a quantum algorithm designed to solve optimisation problems, which are puzzles where the goal is to find the best possible solution among many. The research team called it Decoded Quantum Interferometry (DQI).

DQI uses a quantum version of the Fourier transform to manipulate the wave-like nature of particles that the quantum computer uses as its bits. This process is engineered such that the waves corresponding to good solutions interfere constructively, reinforcing each other to create a strong signal. Meanwhile, the waves for bad solutions interfere destructively and fade out. By measuring the final state, the algorithm will have a higher chance of landing on a 'high-quality' answer. The researchers showed that for the optimal polynomial intersection problem, the DQI algorithm could find a good approximation much faster than any known classical computer.

The experiment involved circuits so intricate that simulating them on the world's second fastest super-computer would have taken more than three years



Big breakthrough: Google Quantum AI's 'Willow' chip. REUTERS

What is scrambling?

In the second study, the authors measured how information becomes scrambled in a complex quantum system. Say you drop a small amount of dark blue dye into a still swimming pool. At the first moment, the 'information' is simple and local. "The blue dye is right here," you can say. But the dye doesn't stay there: it spreads out. The information is no longer in one place but distributed across a larger volume of water. After a few hours, the entire pool has a faint, uniform blue tint. You can no longer see the original drop. The information seems to be gone – but it isn't. It's been scrambled. Every single water molecule in the pool now carries an almost imperceptible piece of that "blue" information.

This is what happens in a quantum system. A piece of information, initially stored in one quantum bit, gets spread out across all the other bits as they interact. The information becomes 'hidden' in the complex relationships between all the particles. So the challenge is: how do you measure a pattern that's so intricately hidden?

To do this, the researchers used a clever experiment. Imagine you're standing in a large, empty warehouse. You shout. The sound waves spread out instantly, bouncing off every wall, the floor, and the ceiling. This is the scrambling: the sound's information is now everywhere. Now, while your shout is still echoing around, your friend on the far side of the warehouse strikes a large metal bell with a hammer. This 'kick' doesn't stop the echoes but it changes them. Any sound wave from your shout that happens to hit that specific bell at that exact moment now gets a little 'imprint' in the form of a faint metallic ring. Then, the researchers did the equivalent of hitting a magical rewind button that caused all the sound waves to travel perfectly backward. All the normal echoes, the ones that didn't hit the bell, trace their paths back perfectly and cancel each other out upon returning, resulting in complete silence.

However, the imprinted echoes are now slightly off-course. When they travel backward, they don't cancel out properly, and the researchers are left hearing a very faint, jumbled echo – one carrying the imprint of the kick. That leftover sound is the OTOC measurement, and this process of different paths mixing and cancelling (or not) is called interference.

By measuring the faintness and character of that leftover echo, the scientists could tell exactly how much the information had spread out and interacted with that specific part of the system (the bell). This is how they successfully measured the subtle, hidden patterns of scrambled information.

How do you show quantum advantage?

The second experiment involved circuits so intricate that researchers estimated simulating them on the world's second fastest supercomputer would have taken more than three years. The Willow processor completed the same task in about two hours. This said, while the first paper described a quantum algorithm that solved a puzzle much faster than any known classical computer, researchers haven't mathematically proven that a clever trick for a regular computer to solve the same puzzle quickly doesn't exist. New research will be needed to prove the problem is permanently hard for all non-quantum computers.

Likewise, while the second paper showed a quantum computer solving a complex problem, the next step will be for an independent team to use the same method to solve an actual unsolved problem in, say, physics or chemistry.

Finally, while the two studies mark a decisive step, their applications remain largely prospective. These are still lab-designed tasks whose outputs don't yet translate to scientific discoveries. The next stage will depend on improving other parts of quantum computing, including error correction and scaling to thousands of reliable quantum bits. These are widely expected to take several years more.

What did Google claim in 2019?

In a 2019 experiment, Google researchers used a quantum system to attempt to solve a problem called random circuit sampling. Here, its Sycamore processor ran a random programme generating a list of answers, with the challenge of predicting which of those answers would appear most frequently. However, researchers can't check a single answer in random circuit sampling, if the statistical distribution of all the answers looks correct. On the other hand, the problem the new test solved concerned a scientifically meaningful physical quantity.

The result was also said to be "verifiable" because the same problem can be run on a classical computer or another quantum computer, and verifying the answer doesn't depend on statistical patterns. One likely early application of the findings is in Hamiltonian learning, the process of inferring unknown parameters of a physical system by comparing experimental data with simulated outcomes. The same principles that this year's physics Nobel Prize laureates developed are what make processors like Willow possible. One of the laureates, Michel Devoret, is the chief scientist of quantum hardware at Google Quantum AI. The new studies built on the laureates' work to solve an optimisation problem and then to track how information spreads in quantum systems.

What has the U.S. clarified on H-1B visas?

What is the exemption for foreign students? Will it be easier for the IT industry and students to seek visas? How have the rules been eased for anyone wanting to switch visa categories? Why is there a pushback from U.S. industry as well?

Saptaparno Ghosh

The story so far:

In a softening of stricter immigration controls announced this September, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) clarified on October 20 that current holders seeking an extension or wanting to switch their visa category would not have to pay the $1,00,000 fee to process H-1B applications. This fee would only be applicable to the new applications made after September 21 post-midnight hours in the U.S. (Eastern Time). Though the clarification does offer some reassurance, there is apprehension in various sectors, particularly the IT industry, about the Trump administration's inward-looking policies.

What is the clarification?

The immigration services department has clarified that those seeking an extension or wanting to switch their visa category, say, from a student's visa (categorised as F-1) to an H-1B visa, would not have to pay the processing fee. More importantly, the USCIS said the Secretary of Homeland Security could allow for an exception in certain "extraordinarily rare circumstances" wherein the applicant has been determined to serve a certain national interest, and no American is available to fill the particular role, or that making the employer pay the processing fee on the worker's behalf would undermine the country's interests. Homeland Security would also look to ensure the applicant does not pose a threat to the security or welfare of the U.S.

The U.S. experienced a greater than 19% decline in overseas student arrivals this year

GETTY IMAGES

What may have prompted the change?

The revised fee announced in September had caused panic not only in India. Concerns centred about the fee making it "cost-prohibitive" for U.S. employers, especially start-ups and small and mid-sized businesses, to hire foreign workers. Several industry groups, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce argued this went against the objective of the programme which was to ensure "businesses of all sizes can access the global talent they need to grow their operations" in the U.S. In fact, the Chamber this month filed a legal challenge arguing that the revised fee was "unlawful" and must be structured around actual costs incurred by the government in processing visas, not otherwise. Moreover, the complainant argues that U.S. firms, particularly in manufacturing and certain STEM fields, face a shortage in finding domestic workers "qualified and available to fill the roles needed for the company to perform". In fact, Neil Bradley, Chief Policy Officer at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, in a blogpost, mentioned the U.S. education system has "not kept pace with the needs of businesses in this global economy". Reflecting on an "entrenched opposition to change", among other things, he writes, "Our nation's failing report card in math and sciences forces business to create their own programmes to address these challenges," he stated.

The H-1B proclamation announced in September has already had an impact on arrivals to the country. Preliminary data of the U.S. International Trade Administration (ITA) points to a 44% decline on a year-over-year basis in student arrivals from India for August this year. Overall, the U.S. experienced a greater than 19% decline in overseas student arrivals.

Does this open doors for Indian students?

Ajay Srivastava, founder of the India-based Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI), told *The Hindu* that the exemption for foreign students removes a "major financial hurdle at the start of their careers". He elaborates this would allow for a smoother movement from education to employment without the risk of or cost of leaving the country. However, Mr. Srivastava apprehends the decision earlier this month to cap international student admissions [for undergrad] to 15% of total intake with 5% from an individual country would "drastically reduce opportunities for Indian students to even enter the U.S. education system". "This measure effectively shuts the door for many before they can benefit from the revised H-1B rules," observed Mr. Srivastava. The proposed cap forms part of a broader 10-point memo sent by the U.S. administration to universities seeking an agreement on a broad range of issues, ranging from foreign enrolment, faculty hiring to encouraging ideological diversity, and not just "woke, socialist and anti-American ideology".

Has confusion been resolved?

Notwithstanding the clarifications, the H-1B proclamation struggles with certain structural concerns. Speaking to *The Hindu* over email, Kate Angustia, supervisory policy and practice counsel at the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), said the latest clarifications address some of the details on how the U.S. government is implementing their plan. "The USCIS update addresses when a petitioner must submit payment and what is required for petitioners. Prior to the update, these were unknown factors," she said. Although, Ms. Angustia separately underlined there could be "confusion" with regards to determining the exceptions. "There is not a clear guidance on the standards, and this is a significant departure from the statute," she states.

The proclamations, as was the case in September, fall amidst a larger backdrop advocating protectionism and strengthening inward-looking prospects, one of them being to tighten immigration. Ms. Angustia noted, "The broader environment is very concerning because U.S. businesses and immigration advocates know that the government could announce a new policy and create confusion again." Back home, the Department of Economic Affairs in their monthly review for September had observed the fee could cause "disruptions" –particularly on the growth of future remittances and service trade surpluses.

Pakistan's most wanted jihadist

Noor Wali Mehsud

The TTP leader, who sees the Afghan Taliban's return to power as 'a victory for the entire Muslim people', has rebuilt his group and intensified attacks against Pakistan's army, sending tensions between Islamabad and Kabul soaring

Stanly Johny

Benazir Bhutto "planned to collaborate with the U.S. against the mujahideen if she returned to power. Her return was designed at the behest of the Americans as they had given her a plan against the Mujahideen-e-Islam," Mufti Noor Wali Mehsud wrote in his 2017 book about the assassination of the former Pakistan Prime Minister in December 2007. Then a mid-level leader of the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), Mehsud claimed that the TTP was behind the killing. "Bomber Bilal first fired at Benazir Bhutto from his pistol and the bullet hit her neck. Then he detonated his explosive jacket and blew himself up among the participants of the procession," Mehsud recounted in the book, titled *Inqilab-e-Mehsud, South Waziristan: Firangi Raj se Amreeki Samraj Tak* (*Mehsud Revolution, South Waziristan: From British Raj to American Imperialism*).

Eleven years after Benazir was killed, Mehsud would rise to become the emir of the TTP, overseeing a rapid expansion of the group's operations inside Pakistan. Earlier this month, Pakistan carried out air strikes in Kabul, reportedly targeting Mehsud, a UN-designated terrorist. He survived. But the strikes triggered the worst cross-border clashes between Pakistan and the Afghan Taliban in years, leaving dozens dead. A Qatar-brokered ceasefire halted the fighting, for now, but the relations between former patron and client remain tense, largely because of the power and influence Mehsud commands.

Born on June 26, 1978, in South Waziristan's Tiarza region, Noor Wali Mehsud hails from the Mechikhel sub-clan of the Pashtun Mehsud tribe. He received Islamic education at various madrasas in Faisalabad, Gujranwala, and Karachi throughout the 1990s. After the Taliban captured Kabul in 1996, he crossed the Durand Line, the colonial-era Pakistan-Afghan border which he describes as "an unnatural and cruel line", to join the Taliban in their fight against Ahmad Shah Massoud's Northern Alliance. He returned to Pakistan in the late 1990s to complete his madrassa education, but went back to Afghanistan after the September 11, 2001 attacks.

The fall of the Taliban regime in Kabul later that year, following the U.S. invasion, deprived the militants – the Taliban, Pashtun fighters from Pakistan and al-Qaeda – of their safe haven. They retreated to Pakistan's tribal areas, where they found refuge. By 2004, the Pakistani army had launched a crackdown across the tribal belt to flush out al-Qaeda and other foreign militants (*Ansars*). The campaign provoked widespread resentment among locals. According to Mehsud, Pakistan's demand that the tribes hand over the militants violated the tribal principle of *malmastia* (hospitality). The army's assault triggered what he calls a 'defensive jihad' by the Mehsud tribe, one of the worst affected. In 2007, the Tehreek-e-Taliban (TTP) was formally announced, under the leadership of Baitullah Mehsud.

Dual policy

Pakistan pursued a dual policy at the time: it sheltered the Afghan Taliban, who were driving a deadly insurgency in Afghanistan against both the Islamic Republic and the U.S. troops, while mounting a brutal crackdown in its tribal regions against the Pakistani Taliban (TTP). Wali Mehsud was the deputy of Khaled Mehsud, leader of the powerful Mehsud tribal faction within the TTP. When Khaled was killed, he became the face of the Mehsud tribe within the group. In 2018, after the killing of TTP chief Mullah Fazlullah in a drone strike, Mehsud was appointed the emir. The group was largely in retreat. Fazlullah's efforts to centralise control had backfired, prompting several factions to break away.

Hailing from the Yousafzai clan of Pashtuns from Swat, Fazlullah lacked support among the Mehsuds, the tribe that dominated the TTP ranks. With Wali Mehsud's ascent, the TTP leadership returned to the Mehsud tribe. He set about unifying splintered factions and rebuilding a group that had fallen into disarray. He also adopted a looser, federal model, giving autonomy to local commanders to operate under the broad TTP umbrella. The TTP issued a new manifesto, prioritising attacks on Pakistan's security personnel rather than civilians (TTP until then had carried some of the worst terror attacks in Pakistan, including the 2014 Peshawar school massacre). It dropped calls for "greater jihad" and stated their enemy was the Pakistani military and their backers. "Our fight is only in Pakistan, and we are at war with the Pakistani security forces...We are hoping to take control of the Pakistani tribal border regions and make them independent," Mehsud said in an interview in 2021.

ILLUSTRATION: R. RAJESH

Between 2018 and 2021, Mehsud's focus was on rebuilding the jihadist machinery. In 2021, the Taliban's return to Kabul in August 2021 served as a morale booster for the militants across the region, including the TTP. "The Afghan Taliban victory is a victory for the entire Muslim people. Our relations are based on brotherhood, sympathy, and Islamic principles," Mehsud declared. He claimed that the Afghans have "defeated the great tyrant of modern times [the U.S.] and his slaves, and crowned the entire Islamic *Ummah* and especially the Mujahid and Ghazi Afghan people."

For Mehsud, the Taliban's supreme leader is his "Ameer" – a reflection of the deep ideological bond between the two groups. He has asserted that his "jihad" carries the endorsement of hundreds of Deobandi clerics. "Our war is for the supreme word of Allah," he once said. Mehsud's worldview mirrors that of the Afghan Taliban. The TTP seeks to implement its strict Islamic code across Pakistan's tribal regions, enforcing total segregation of men and women in public places. Mufti Mehsud wants to achieve what Mullah Omar and Mullah Akhundzada (the Afghan Taliban's founding and current leaders) have achieved in Afghanistan.

Return with vengeance

Over the past four years, the TTP has intensified attacks in Pakistan, particularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. If the Afghan Taliban could defeat "the great tyrant" (the U.S.) in 20 years, the TTP seems determined to fight a long war against the Pakistani army. "Our real war is against the army. Political governments are... the slaves of the army," Mehsud said in a 2022 interview, referring to his enemy. A resurgent TTP deepened the security anxieties of Pakistan, which blames the Afghan Taliban for sheltering Mehsud and his tribal jihadists.

By striking various provinces of Afghanistan earlier this month, in response to growing militant attacks, Islamabad-Rawalpindi is trying to hold Kabul accountable for the actions of the TTP. Yet, it was Pakistan's own military campaigns in the tribal belt that gave birth to the TTP in the first place. This leaves Pakistan, which celebrated the Taliban's return to Kabul in 2021, in limbo. Doing nothing, or seeking peace with the TTP would signal weakness and allow the militants to regroup. But continued military attacks, both in Pakistan tribal regions and across the Afghan border, risk not just alienating the Pashtun population further but also turning the Taliban-ruled Afghanistan into open hostility. Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir's Pakistan seems to have chosen the latter.

THE GIST

- After becoming the leader of the TTP, Mehsud set about unifying splintered factions and rebuilding a group that had fallen into disarray
- He also adopted a looser, federal model, giving autonomy to local commanders to operate under the broad TTP umbrella
- The TTP seeks to implement its strict Islamic code across Pakistan's tribal regions, enforcing total segregation of men and women in public places

A keen negotiator

Chirag Paswan

The LJP chief is projecting himself as a 'Bahujan leader' and is ready to play a long stint in Bihar's fractious political landscape

Sobhana K. Nair

ILLUSTRATIONS: SREEJITH R. KUMAR

A streak of vermillion bisects Chirag Paswan's forehead. From his wrist till halfway to his elbow, sacred threads cover his arm and multiple rings with various stones, each for distinct astrological reasons, adorn his hand. Neatly styled dark hair, immaculately trimmed beard, white kurta, and blue jeans complete the look. This is a carefully cultivated image, strikingly different from his old self with blonde streaked hair and a bulked-up body dressed in vivid coloured suits.

The transformation reflects his political journey: from being the political heir to his father Ram Vilas Paswan who founded the Lok Jan Shakti Party (LJP) to reconstructing the stump of the party left to him after his uncle Pashupati Nath Paras walked away with four Lok Sabha MPs in June 2021. Today he is a Cabinet minister and is counted as a prominent player in Bihar politics.

The script of his life resembles a Bollywood potboiler – a genre he understands very well. He often self-deprecatingly says, "I know a bad film; I have acted one after all". He had a brief stint in the Hindi film industry. He bowed out after his debut film tanked.

His career as a film star may have failed to take off, but as a political actor he has gained heft in Bihar, managing to get 29 seats to contest the coming elections under the NDA banner, despite his party's dismal record in previous polls. Significantly, this is at least nine more than what JD(U) was willing to spare. For him, it was goldilocks spot, since he also managed to wrest at least "80%" of seats of his choice. Nearly, everyone in the alliance, from Nitish Kumar, to Hindustan Awam Morcha's Jitan Ram Manjhi and Rashtriya Lok Samata Party's Upendra Kushwaha, expressed discontent at the generous share given to the LJP.

The LJP formed in 2000 by his father and now in its splintered avatar has got only 5% vote share in Bihar Assembly. In the current assembly, neither faction has a single legislator. In the February 2005 polls, when the Bihar electorate threw up a hung Assembly, the LJP won 29 seats, their highest tally so far.

In the run-up to polls, Mr. Paswan had declared that he would contest from Shahbad region, where the NDA had performed badly. The party furiously backpedalled, claiming that had they got more seats, Mr. Paswan would have contested. For the NDA, it was a relief. There is already growing uncertainty with various statements on Nitish Kumar continuing as Chief Minister if the NDA wins. Mr. Paswan would have added to the confusion, had he contested the Assembly polls.

New alliance

The LJP will be contesting alongside Nitish Kumar and campaigning for votes on his behalf for the very first time this year. Paswans constitute the core votebank of the party. In 2007, Mr. Kumar carved out the Mahadalit group, ostensibly to provide special government assistance to those marginalised within the Scheduled Caste. Out of the 22 sub-castes, 21 were categorised under this category, excluding the Paswans. Would an electorate fed on criticism of Mr. Kumar by both father and son be keen to vote for him now? Mr. Paswan himself has been critical of the Nitish Kumar administration.

Mr. Paswan, whose father Ram Vilas Paswan was one of the leading Dalit leaders from Bihar, hasn't quite earned his spurs as a Dalit leader. In the first two months in the Cabinet, the government went on to endorse his public positions on two key issues. The government rejected the Supreme Court ruling asking for exclusion of 'creamy layer' among Dalits from the purview of quotas, after protest from Mr. Paswan. The government also withheld the decision of lateral entry as proposed by the UPSC, which he had stood against. Though he speaks out often on such issues he sees the tag 'Dalit leader' as limiting. He would rather call himself a 'Bahujan' leader – appealing to a wider array of caste and communities.

Mr. Paswan will turn 43 on October 30. In Indian political lexicon he is still a young leader. "I am not here for a short sprint. I have 30-years of political career ahead," he often says, hinting at many sharp curves in the road ahead.

Rebel's homecoming

Thuingaleng Muivah

The Naga leader's visit to his hometown in Manipur after six decades has ignited hopes that it could speed up the peace process, which started in 1997

Rahul Karmakar

Giuseppe Maria Garibaldi, the Italian General and nationalist who played a major role in the Risorgimento, or the Unification of Italy, in the 1860s, came to be known as the 'Hero of Two Worlds' for his revolutionary military exploits in Europe and South America. He never pulled through the loss of his native Nice to France as the price for the French support for the Risorgimento.

To many Nagas, specifically in Manipur, the 91-year-old Thuingaleng Muivah is the hero of the Naga-inhabited world, divided between two countries – India and Myanmar. This world, covering more than 57,400 sq. km, includes the 13,329 sq. km Naga Self-Administered Zone of Myanmar's Sagaing Division. Mr. Muivah is based at Camp Hebron, the central headquarters of his armed organisation, the National Socialist Council of Nagalim (NSCN), in adjoining Nagaland, but Manipur's pre-bifurcation Ukhrul district is where his heart is, like most other members of his Tangkhul community, which dominates the district.

Ukhrul has, thus, been central to the goal of the unified Naga homeland of the NSCN, more familiar to the world beyond as the Isak-Muivah faction of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland or the NSCN (I-M) that he has led since April 30, 1988. The Manipur government perceived this goal, though subdued since the NSCN (I-M) signed the Framework Agreement with the government of India on August 3, 2015, as a threat to the State's territorial integrity and banned his entry until recently.

Changing scenario

Two factors facilitated Mr. Muivah's visit to his village, Somdal, 25 km from Ukhrul town, on October 22, after six decades: his ill-health and the changed political scenario since the ethnic conflict that broke out in Manipur in May 2023, realigning the equations among the State's three major communities - the Kuki-Zo, Meitei, and Naga. These factors, however, were secondary for Manipur's Nagas, who regard Mr. Muivah as Avakharar, meaning 'eldest father' or godfather in the Tangkhul tongue. Emotions, understandably, ran high when he landed in a chopper at Somdal, with almost the entire village of some 4,500 people eager to catch a glimpse of their "greatest son" from up close, if not to touch him.

The fourth of five siblings, Mr. Muivah was born on March 3, 1934, five years after the Naga Club, the first Naga political organisation, submitted a memorandum to the Simon Commission stating that the Nagas should be left "alone to determine for ourselves as in ancient times". In 1946, the Naga Club evolved into the Naga National Council (NNC), which subsequently fought for the independence of the Naga-inhabited areas from India. Two years after he did his post-graduation in political science from Assam's Gauhati University, Mr. Muivah bid his village adieu to join the NNC in 1964.

The closest he came to visiting his village earlier was in 2010 when the Centre cleared the trip. Bowing to sentiments in the primarily non-Naga Imphal Valley, Manipur's Congress government put its foot down and barred his entry, with the resultant crackdown claiming two lives. Mr. Muivah's convoy could not proceed beyond Nagaland's Viswema, about 120 km northwest of Somdal.

His homecoming has ignited hopes for an honourable conclusion to the Naga peace process that began on August 1, 1997, when the NSCN (I-M) and the Centre agreed to the cessation of armed conflict. His followers pray that the Naga homeland with a "separate Naga Flag and a Naga Constitution or Yehzabo" becomes a reality for the man who walked out of the NNC when it signed the "compromising" Shillong Accord in 1975. He then went ahead to form the NSCN in 1980, and later the NSCN (I-M) with Isak Chishi Swu in 1988, after differences with his Myanmar-based comrade S.S. Khaplang. "Generation comes and goes, but the nation stays," Mr. Muivah said in Somdal on October 22. "The issue we are fighting for is greater and older than most of us who are gathered here at this Tangkhul Naga Long ground today."

ISTANBUL

Pakistan, Taliban officials plan to firm up ceasefire at Istanbul talks

AFP

Afghan Taliban and Pakistani negotiators are to meet in Istanbul, Turkey on Saturday to address security issues and establish a lasting truce along their shared border after an outbreak of intense bloody clashes. This second round follows talks in Doha, Qatar, which appears to have held, although the terms remain unclear. AFP

WASHINGTON

Trump says N. Korea is 'sort of a nuclear power' ahead of Asia tour

AFP

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Friday that North Korea was "sort of a nuclear power" as he left for Asia on a trip that could include a meeting with Kim Jong-un. Mr. Trump was responding to whether he was open to Pyongyang's demand to be recognised as a nuclear state as a precondition for dialogue with Washington. AFP

DUBLIN

Catherine Connolly set to win Irish presidential poll as rival concedes

REUTERS

Irish voters looked set to have left-winger Catherine Connolly as their new President, after her only rival conceded defeat in a poll marred by spoilt voting and low turnout. After hours of counting, Ms. Connolly was set for a landslide victory, prompting the centrist Fine Gael party's Heather Humphreys to congratulate her. AFP

CARACAS

Venezuela's Maduro claims U.S is fabricating a war in the region

AFP

Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro asserted on Friday the U.S was "fabricating a war" as Washington sent an aircraft carrier to the Caribbean, building up military deployment there. "They promised they would never again get involved in a war, and they are fabricating a war that we are going to prevent," Mr. Maduro said. AFP

Crowds still throng Hiroshima memorial, but Japan's defence posture could be changing

Takaichi's announcement of defence expenditure at 2% of GDP in her parliamentary speech elicits mixed responses; former diplomat says amending the pacifist Constitution, which states the Japanese people 'renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation', will remain on the agenda for the PM

Suhasini Haidar
HIROSHIMA/TOKYO

Eighty years after the U.S. attacked Japan with the atomic bomb, crowds still throng to the mound-shaped peace memorial and museum in Hiroshima to pay their respects to hundreds of thousands killed or affected.

The bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the subsequent surrender of Japan to allied forces in 1945 laid the foundation for Japan's pacifist Constitution and its policy of "minimum necessary levels" for "self-defence forces".

However, many here say the change in the government and election of Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi this week, the first woman to hold the position, as well as the new coalition partners to the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), will bring major changes to Japan's defence posture, and herald a larger shift for the country.

The new Prime Minister's announcement of 2% of GDP or about 11 trillion yen defence expenditure in her first parliamentary speech on Friday elicits mixed responses, and some misgivings. "Whether you are a supporter of Sanae-San or not, there is now an expectation, especially among the youth, of change coming to Japan," said a 23-year-old visitor, who works in the health sector. "I think the focus of the government should be on supporting the ageing population in the country."

Self-defence

"We should spend on defence, but only self-defence to protect Japanese people, not offensive (operations)," said Ms. Masako, who paid respects at the memorial with her teenage daughter Urara on Saturday.

However Mr. Hirae, a taxi driver in the city, said he is a fan of the new Prime Minister, adding that it is time for the government in Tokyo to take Japan's defence more seriously.

One of Ms. Takaichi's early challenges will be a decision on whether to follow her mentor former

Arched landmark: People visit the Memorial Cenotaph at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial on Saturday. SUHASINI HAIDAR

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in debating an amendment to Article 9 of the Japanese post-war Constitution that says the Japanese people "renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation and the threat or use of force as means of settling international disputes".

The second part of Article 9 is particularly redundant, Mr. Abe had argued, as it said that "land, sea, and air forces, as well as other war potential, will never be maintained", as Japan has since those decades, consistently increased its defence capabilities.

Takaichi's agenda

A former senior diplomat, who asked not to be identified, said that amending the Constitution, which requires two-third of Parliament to approve, is difficult, given the coalition in power has a slight minority, but added it will remain on the agenda for Ms. Takaichi, especially given her coalition now includes the more right-wing Ishin party.

"In the past, the LDP's coalition partner (Komeito party, in ruling coalition during 1999-2025) was seen as more moderate and held back LDP Prime Ministers from such a step. But today, the LDP's coalition partners are seen as more hawkish... and the restraints on Ms. Takaichi are certainly less," the diplomat said.

The shift in Japan's defence posture is not sudden, but it has gained salience in the past decade. At the National Museum of Territory and Sovereignty, a museum operated by the Cabinet Secretariat since 2018, the government seeks to educate the next generation and other visitors about Japan's territorial disputes: with Russia over the Northern Territories, tensions with China over the Senkaku islands and with South Korea over the Takeshima islands near the peninsula.

Through videos, charts and an immersive installation, Museum officials explain what they believe is Japan's "rightful" ownership of the territories. "This is about Japan's security!" reads literature given out at the exhibit, highlighting the urgency of the situation. "Russia's aggression against Ukraine and what is happening in the South China Sea are not separate events, but are interconnected," it adds.

Such concerns may not weigh as much 800 km away in Hiroshima, where the destruction and devastation of 1945 still hang heavily in the air around the "Atomic bomb dome", and spearheaded peace and nuclear disarmament movements worldwide.

Even so, the winds of change in Japan's Kantei (Prime Minister's Office) are unmistakeable, buoyed by popular support. Ms. Takaichi, who says her role model is former U.K. Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, has begun her tenure with a record 64.4% approval rating, far higher than her predecessors in the past few years.

(The correspondent is visiting Japan at the invitation of the Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Trump's Asia return, East Timor's entry to mark ASEAN summit

Associated Press
KUALA LUMPUR

Donald Trump

Southeast Asian Foreign Ministers held talks on Saturday ahead of a landmark ASEAN summit that will formally welcome East Timor as the bloc's 11th member and mark U.S. President Donald Trump's first trip to Asia since returning to the White House.

The meeting serves as a curtain-raiser for the annual Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit which starts on Sunday in Kuala Lumpur, followed by two days of high-level engagements with key partners, including China, Japan, India, Australia, Russia, South Korea and the U.S.

Leaders are expected to focus on regional security, economic resilience, and maritime disputes – with U.S. tariffs and shifting global trade patterns looming large over discussions.

"As the international landscape becomes increasingly dominated by contestation rather than consensus, division rather than dialogue, ASEAN finds itself at a crossroads," Malaysian Foreign Minister Mohamad Hasan said.

Mr. Trump's trip marks his first ASEAN meeting since 2017 and his first journey to Asia in his second term. The last U.S. president to attend an ASEAN meeting was Joe Biden in 2022. Officials say Mr. Trump is expected to witness new U.S. trade deals, including with Malaysia. Mr. Trump is also expected to preside over the signing of an expanded ceasefire between Thailand and Cambodia.

This year's summit marks a milestone for ASEAN as it welcomes a new member for the first time in 26 years. East Timor, also known as Timor Leste, applied for membership in 2011. The last member to join ASEAN was Cambodia in 1999.

Olive branch

Livelihood matters: A Palestinian woman picks olives in the village of Turmusaya near Ramallah as the harvest season is on in the Israeli-occupied West Bank. Settler violence has disrupted the harvest in the region this year. REUTERS

U.S. sanctions Colombian President over alleged failure to cooperate in drug war

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

The Trump administration on Friday imposed sanctions on Colombian President Gustavo Petro, his family and a member of his government over accusations of involvement in the global drug trade, sharply escalating tensions with one of the closest U.S. allies in South America.

The U.S. Treasury Department leveled the penalties against Mr. Petro; his wife, Veronica del Socorro Alcocer Garcia; his son, Nicolas Fernando Petro Burgos; and Colombian Interior Minister Armando Alberto Benedetti.

Mr. Petro "has allowed drug cartels to flourish and refused to stop this activity," Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said. "President Trump is taking strong action to protect our nation and make clear that we will not tolerate the trafficking of drugs into our nation."

The move ramps up a growing clash between the Republican U.S. president and Colombia's first leftist leader, notably over deadly American strikes on alleged drug-carrying boats off South America.

"Combating drug trafficking effectively for decades brings me this measure from the government of the society we helped so much to stop its use of cocaine," Mr. Petro wrote on X.

The U.S. last month added Colombia, the top recipient of American assistance in the region, to a list of nations failing to cooperate in the drug war.

Canada to remove anti-tariff ad featuring Reagan after Trump terminates trade talks

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

The Canadian province of Ontario said on Friday it would pull an anti-tariff ad featuring former U.S. president Ronald Reagan that prompted current leader Donald Trump to scrap trade talks.

Mr. Trump announced on his Truth Social network on Thursday that he had "terminated" all negotiations with Canada over what he called the "fake" ad campaign that he said misrepresented fellow Republican Reagan.

Less than 24 hours later, Ontario premier Doug Ford said he was suspending the ads after talking to Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney about the spiraling row with Washington. "In speaking with Prime Minister Carney, Ontario will pause its U.S. advertising campaign effective Monday so that trade talks can resume," Mr. Ford said in a post on X.

The Canadian ad used quotes from a radio address that Reagan delivered in 1987, in which he warned against ramifications that high tariffs on foreign imports could have on the U.S. economy.

The Ronald Reagan foundation wrote on X that the Ontario government had used "selective audio and video" and that it was reviewing its legal options.

Zelenskyy pleads for air defence after four die in Russian attacks

Associated Press
KYIV

Russian missile and drone attacks on Ukraine overnight into Saturday killed at least four people and wounded 20, officials said, and prompted fresh pleas from Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy for Western air defence systems.

In the capital, Kyiv, two people were killed and 13 were wounded in a ballistic missile attack, police said.

In the Dnipropetrovsk region, two people were killed and seven wounded, acting regional Gov. Vladyslav Haivanenko said.

Ukraine's air force said Russia launched nine missiles and 62 drones, of which four missiles and 50 drones were intercepted.

Mr. Zelenskyy said such attacks intensify Ukraine's need for Patriot defence systems. "It is precisely because of such attacks that we pay special attention to Patriot systems – to be able to protect our cities from this horror. It is critical that partners who possess relevant capability implement what we have discussed in recent days," he wrote on X.

"America, Europe and the G7 countries can help ensure that such attacks no longer threaten lives," he said.

APPOINTMENT

CORRIGENDUM
to
Advertisement No. 85/2025

Consequent to the grant of **Category-1 "Mini Ratna"** status to **Hindustan Shipyard Limited,** the Annual Turnover Criteria mentioned in the Para III (2) (c) & (d) of the Job Description (JD) for the post of **Chairman & Managing Director** is revised from Rs. 750 Crores to **Rs. 1000 Crores.**

Other contents of the PESB's communication dated 01/10/2025 shall remain unchanged.

For more details login to website http://pesb.gov.in

Nashik Municipal Corporation, Nashik
Public Health Engineering Department (Sewerage)
Rajiv Gandhi Bhavan, Sharanpur Road, Nashik- 422 002.
Ph. (0253) 2575631/32, 2579119 Fax: 2577936
E-Tender Notice No. 04 / 2025-26 (Retender)

Nashik Municipal Corporation, invites bids vide e-Tender No-02/(2025-26) for 02 works. The Detailed Tender Notice & Tender documents will be available on **www.mahatenders.gov.in** from **Dt. 25/10/2025 to Dt. 04/11/2025.**

Sd/xxx
Superintending Engineer
Public Health Engineering Department (Sewerage),
Nashik Municipal Corporation, Nashik

जनसंपर्क/जा.क्र/३०४/२०२५
दि.२४/१०/२०२५
गोदा प्रदुषण टाळा, भविष्य संभाळा.

EXCLUSIVE CLUB

Rohit the 10th batter to notch up 50 international hundreds

AFP

Rohit Sharma became the 10th batter to register 50 international tons during the third ODI against Australia on Saturday. The 38-year-old is the third Indian after Sachin Tendulkar and Virat Kohli to reach the milestone. Earlier, Rohit also became the seventh Indian to complete 100 catches in the 50-over format.

YET ANOTHER MILESTONE

Kohli becomes second-highest run-getter in ODI history

AP

Virat Kohli went past Kumar Sangakkara to become the second-highest run-getter in ODIs. Kohli, who made an unbeaten 74 against Australia in the third and final ODI at the SCG on Saturday, has 14,255 runs from 305 matches, only behind Sachin Tendulkar's 18,426 in 463 games. Sangakkara amassed 14,234 from 404 outings.

MASTERCLASS

A treat to watch when Rohit and Kohli are batting like that: Gill

AFP

Shubman Gill said the way Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli aced the chase was a treat to watch. "They've been doing this for the past 15 years. As a captain, it feels good when two senior players get the team through. It's a treat to watch them, especially when they're batting like that," said Gill.

SIDELINED

Shreyas sustains injury, to be out of action for minimum three weeks

AFP

Shreyas Iyer might be forced to remain out of action for a minimum of three weeks after sustaining a 'jerk' on his left rib cage while taking Alex Carey's catch off Harshit Rana's bowling during the third ODI on Saturday. It's still not clear whether he will be fit in time for the first ODI against South Africa in Ranchi on November 30.

Rohit, Kohli light up SCG in India's consolation win

The two put together an unbroken 168-run second-wicket stand as the visitor chases down the target with ease; Harshit's career-best four-for helps the Men in Blue bundle out the home side for 236

Twinkling in twilight: Rohit brought up his 33rd ODI century in what was probably his final match on Australian soil. AFP

INDIA IN AUSTRALIA

Agence France-Presse
SYDNEY

Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli turned back the clock with an unbroken 168-run stand in what could be their Australian swansong as India thrashed the host by nine wickets in the third One-Day International on Saturday.

Chasing a modest 237 to win, the visitor reached the target with 69 balls to spare at a sold-out Sydney Cricket Ground.

Rohit top-scored with an unbeaten 121, but the biggest roar was for Kohli, who made ducks in the first two games won by Australia at Adelaide and Perth which helped it clinch the series.

Back to his best

This time Kohli was back to his best with a fluent 74 not out.

Like Rohit, he has retired from Test and T20 duties and with no more ODI series scheduled Down Under before the 2027 World Cup it was almost most certainly their final innings on Australian soil.

"I don't know if we'll be coming back to Australia, but it was fun all these years that we played here," said the 38-year-old Rohit.

"You know, a lot of good memories, bad memories. But all in all, I'll take the cricket that I played here."

India made a confident start to the chase after Australia was bowled out for 236.

Rohit and Shubman Gill put on 69 before Josh Hazlewood enticed a faint edge from the Indian captain.

That brought the 36-year-old Kohli to the crease and he and Rohit set about knocking off the runs quickly.

Rohit was almost flawless in reaching a 33rd ODI ton, with 13 fours and three sixes in his knock, while Kohli brought up a 75th half-century to steer the Men in Blue home.

"Going out there and having a situation is always something that brings the best out of me and when Rohit is batting it's pretty easy to kind of rotate the strike, we know each other's game pretty well," said Kohli.

"We want to say thank you, we've loved coming to this country," he added. "We've played some of our best cricket here so thank you very much."

Earlier, Australia was ticking along nicely at 183 for three but lost its last seven wickets for just 53.

Harshit Rana did the damage with four for 39 while Matt Renshaw top-scored with 56.

SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIA

Mitchell Marsh b Axar 41 (*50b, 5x4, 1x6*), Travis Head c Prasidh b Siraj 29 (*25b, 6x4*), Matthew Short c Kohli b Washington 30 (*41b, 2x4*), Matt Renshaw lbw b Washington 56 (*58b, 2x4*), Alex Carey c Shreyas b Harshit 24 (*37b, 1x4*), Cooper Connolly c Kohli b Harshit 23 (*34b, 2x4*), Mitchell Owen c Rohit b Harshit 1 (*4b*), Mitchell Starc b Kuldeep 2 (*5b*), Nathan Ellis c Rohit b Prasidh 16 (*19b, 3x4*), Adam Zampa (not out) 2 (*5b*), Josh Hazlewood b Harshit 0 (*2b*); Extras (b-6, lb-3, w-3): 12; Total (in 46.4 overs): 236.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-61 (Head, 9.2 overs), 2-88 (Marsh, 15.1), 3-124 (Short, 22.3), 4-183 (Carrey, 33.4), 5-195 (Renshaw, 36.2), 6-198 (Owen, 37.4), 7-201 (Starc, 38.4), 8-223 (Ellis, 43.5), 9-236 (Connolly, 46.2).

INDIA BOWLING

Siraj 5-1-24-1, Harshit 8.4-0-39-4, Prasidh 7-0-52-1, Kuldeep 10-0-50-1, Axar 6-0-18-1, Washington 10-0-44-2.

INDIA

Rohit Sharma (not out) 121 (*125b, 13x4, 3x6*), Shubman Gill c Carey b Hazlewood 24 (*26b, 2x4, 1x6*), Virat Kohli (not out) 74 (*81b, 7x4*); Extras: (lb-6, nb-1, w-11): 18. Total (for one wkt. in 38.3 overs): 237.

FALL OF WICKET

1-69 (Gill, 10.2).

AUSTRALIA BOWLING

Starc 5-0-31-0, Hazlewood 6-1-23-1, Ellis 7.3-0-60-0, Connolly 5-0-36-0, Zampa 10-0-50-0, Owen 1-0-2-0, Short 4-0-29-0.

Toss: Australia.

Player-of-the-Match and Player-of-the-Series: Rohit.

India won by nine wickets with 69 balls to spare. Australia clinched the three-match series 2-1.

India's next match: First T20I, October 29, Canberra, 1.45 p.m. IST.

Packing a punch: Kohli made amends for his ducks in the first two matches with a classy unbeaten 74. PTI

Two Australian players touched inappropriately

Sports Bureau
INDORE

Two Australian women's players were "approached and touched inappropriately" in Indore on Thursday, Cricket Australia (CA) said in a statement on Saturday.

It is learnt that the two were walking to a cafe, roughly three kilometres from their hotel Radisson Blu, on Thursday morning when a motorcyclist committed the offence. "Cricket Australia can confirm that two members of the Australian team were approached and touched inappropriately by a motorcyclist while walking to a cafe in Indore," the CA statement read.

The players alerted the Australian team's security manager, Danny Simmons, who filed a police complaint. The police registered a First Information Report (FIR) and the accused, Aqueel Khan, was arrested and charged under sections 74 and 78 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

"It is a very condemnable but stray incident. India is known for its hospitality and care. We have zero tolerance for such incidents. We appreciate the MP police for their prompt action. We will revisit the safety protocols to further tighten security," said BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia.

King rules the roost as Australia sets date with India in semifinal

ODI WORLD CUP

Vivek Krishnan
INDORE

At the Holkar Stadium on Saturday, it was the Alana King show through and through.

Under leaden skies, the 29-year-old Australian leg-spinner teased and tormented South Africa with her beguiling craft, and finished with career-best returns of 7-2-18-7. Apart from producing the best bowling figures by an Australian woman in ODIs, it is also the first-ever seven-wicket haul in the 50-over event. At one stage of her spell, the figures of the Melbourne-born spinner, whose parents emigrated from Chennai, remarkably read 2.3-2-0-4.

King's extraordinary display helped the Aussies bundle out Laura Wolvaardt and Co. for a paltry 97 in 24 overs, and stroll to a seven-wicket win. By securing top spot in the eight-team table, the defending champion has set up a clash with India in the second semifinal in Navi Mumbai on October 30. South Africa, meanwhile, will take on England in the first semifinal in Guwahati on October 29.

Incredible spell: King's seven for 18 is the best in the World Cup. R.V. MOORTHY

In the initial overs, Wolvaardt went after Megan Schutt with four boundaries in the third over. But with Tazmin Brits digging herself into a hole at the other end, the pressure eventually seemed to tell on Wolvaardt.

In the seventh over, she succumbed when a flick off Schutt was caught by King at midwicket. Brits followed Wolvaardt to the dressing room three overs later.

Thereafter, King set the stage alight. In her very first over, she struck twice. While Sune Luus dragged a slog sweep to Annabel Sutherland at mid-on, Marizanne Kapp was lured into slashing one to backward point. In her third over, she struck off consecutive deliveries, knocking over Annerie Dercksen's leg stump before getting Chloe Tryon caught at midwicket. It was at this juncture that King had scalped four breakthroughs without yet conceding a run.

Sinalo Jafta tried to counterattack by hitting seven fours in a 17-ball 29. But as was the order of the day, she was one of four batters to have her stumps uprooted by King.

The scores: South Africa 97 in 24 overs (Laura Wolvaardt 31, Alana King 7/18) lost to Australia 98/3 in 16.5 overs (Georgia Voll 38 n.o., Beth Mooney 42).

Toss: Australia; **PoM:** King.

Chance for India to test bench strength ahead of big clash

Amol Karhadkar
NAVI MUMBAI

All the knockout spots are sealed, and for India, even the semifinal opponent remains unchanged regardless of Sunday's Women's ODI World Cup result. Yet, when India faces Bangladesh in the final league game at the DY Patil Stadium, both teams will have plenty to play for beyond what's being termed a 'dead rubber.'

For India, the focus will be on maintaining rhythm and managing workloads before the semifinals. Wicketkeeper-batter Richa Ghosh's fitness remains a concern after she injured her left-hand during the win against New Zealand.

Weather could also play spoilsport, with persistent rain predicted throughout the day in the Navi Mumbai region. On an overcast Saturday afternoon, Arundhati Reddy, Uma Chetry, Radha Yadav, Amanjot Kaur and Harleen Deol trained at the side-nets of the stadium while Pratika Rawal had a chat with head coach Amol Muzumdar.

If conditions permit, India's think-tank might test the bench strength and fine-tune combinations ahead of the knockout stage.

For Bangladesh a win would not only help it avoid the wooden spoon in the eight-team table but could even lift it to sixth place. That climb would bring a significant financial boost – ₹3.4 crore in prize money compared to the ₹2.8 crore reserved for the bottom two teams.

While the semifinal lineup is already locked, this contest still holds meaning – for form, fitness, and pride.

Today's matches

England vs New Zealand
Visakhapatnam, 11 a.m.
H2H IN ODIs
Played: 85
England 46 | New Zealand 37
No Result 1 | Tied 1
IN WORLD CUPS
Played: 18
England 11 | New Zealand 6
Tied 1

India vs Bangladesh
Navi Mumbai, 3 p.m.
H2H IN ODIs
Played: 8
India 6 | Bangladesh 1
Tied 1
IN WORLD CUPS
Played: 1
India 1 | Bangladesh 0

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD) & JIOHOTSTAR

Kiwis eye a perfect farewell for Devine as they face England

Sankar Narayanan E.H.
VISAKHAPATNAM

England and New Zealand walk into the penultimate league match of the Women's ODI World Cup with contrasting motivations.

While the White Ferns' objective will be to provide a memorable farewell to skipper Sophie Devine, who is retiring from the format after Sunday's clash at the ACA-VDCA Stadium here, England's focus will be on bouncing back from its loss to Australia.

Nat Sciver-Brunt & Co. cannot afford two consecutive losses ahead of the climactic phase, so changes to the playing XI are unlikely.

"It's about trying to stick to what we've been doing and getting back to winning ways... we still haven't had that really complete game, maybe outside the South Africa match... it is also about looking at the bigger picture," England opener Tammy Beaumont said during the pre-match press conference on Saturday.

The Kiwis' challenge lies in keeping the emotions surrounding Devine's retirement and their tournament exit in check.

"I'm sure there'll be different emotions around about Sophie's last game in ODIs. I know I've thought about what I might say to the team before that. But I am certain tomorrow [Sunday], not just for Sophie, but for our own sake in the team, everyone's really keen to put our best foot forward," NZ coach Ben Sawyer said.

Veteran Suzie Bates is due for some runs (30 in four innings), and a big score in Devine's swansong would be a perfect gift for her partner in crime.

Though it was hot and humid on the eve of the contest, both teams will be keeping their fingers crossed that Cyclone Montha, expected to make landfall a day after the match, won't disrupt proceedings at this coastal city.

Lauren Bell at practice. K.R. DEEPAK

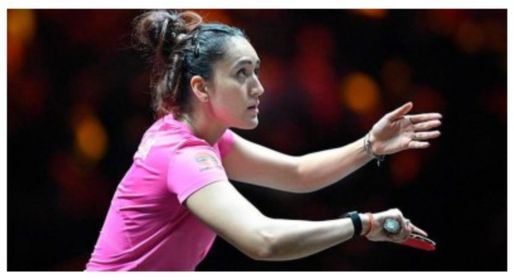
INBRIEF

Pink Panthers oust defending champion Haryana Steelers

Jaipur Pink Panthers posted a 30-27 win over Haryana Steelers in Play-In 1 of PKL-12 in New Delhi on Saturday to eliminate the defending champion from the tournament.

Chennai to host HIL first leg from January 3

The new season of the Hero-Hockey India League (HIL) 2025-26 will see the men's league being played across three cities – Chennai, Ranchi and Bhubaneswar – from January 3 to 26 while the women's league will once again take place entirely in Ranchi from Dec. 28 to Jan. 10. The opening leg of men's HIL will be held in Chennai from Jan. 3 to 9 before moving to Ranchi. The third and final leg will be held from Jan. 17 to 26 in Bhubaneswar.



Manika stuns world No. 12 Xunyao, enters quarterfinals

India's Manika Batra entered the quarterfinals after stunning world No. 12 Shi Xunyao of China 11-6, 11-4, 8-11, 11-9 in the $300,000 WTT Star Contender in London on Saturday.

Bhagat clinches two golds; Kadam wins gold and silver

Pramod Bhagat bagged two gold medals while Sukant Kadam returned with a gold and a silver as India dominated the Australian para badminton International 2025, finishing on top of the medals tally in Victoria. Bhagat clinched the men's singles SL3 title, defeating compatriot Manoj Sarkar 21-15, 21-17 in the final, before pairing up with Kadam to win the men's doubles SL3-SL4 crown, beating the Indian duo of Umesh Vikram Kumar and Surya Kant Yadav 21-11, 19-21, 21-18. Manasi Joshi grabbed two gold medals – women's singles SL3 and mixed doubles SL3-SU5 with Ruthick Ragupathi. The latter also combined with Chirag Baretha to win the men's doubles SU5 title. Sivarajan Solaimalai and Sudarshan Muthuswamy won gold and silver in men's doubles SH6, while Yashodhan Ravankole and Dheeraj Saini claimed the men's doubles SU5 gold. Sarumathi secured the women's singles SL4 + SU5 title, defeating Australia's Zashka Gunson.

East Bengal, Dempo play out a draw, Bagan beats Chennaiyin

A profligate East Bengal was left to rue its missed chances as it was held to a dramatic 2-2 draw by a resilient Dempo SC in their opening Group A match of the Super Cup on Saturday. In the day's other match, Jamie Maclaren's brace ensured an easy 2-0 win for Mohun Bagan over Chennaiyin FC.

The results: East Bengal 2 (Naorem Mahesh Singh 46, Miguel Ferreira 57) drew with Dempo SC 2 (Mohamed Ali 27, Laximanrao Rane 89); Mohun Bagan 2 (Jamie Maclaren 38, 67) bt Chennaiyin 0.

Delhi defeats Karnataka by 44 runs

Delhi defeated Karnataka by 44 runs in the BCCI senior women's T20 trophy match at Surat.

The scores: Delhi 117/8 in 20 overs (Pragya Rawat 32, Shweta Sehrawat 30, Sahana Pawar 3/11) bt Karnataka 73 in 17.1 overs (Nazma 4/10).

LIVE TELECAST

NZ vs ENG: 1st ODI, Sony Sports Ten 1 & LIV, 6.30 a.m.
Ranji Trophy: JioHotstar, 8.30 a.m.
Women's ODI World Cup, England vs New Zealand: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 11 a.m.
India vs Bangladesh: Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 3 p.m.
PVL: Sony Sports Ten 1 (SD & HD) & LIV, 6.30 p.m.
Premier League: SS Select 1 & JioHotstar, 7.30 & 10 p.m.
PKL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 8 p.m.
Formula One: Mexico City GP, F1 TV, F1 TV Pro App & FanCode, 1.30 a.m. (Monday)

Karnataka and Goa share honours after rain delays start of opening day

The visitor has the host under the cosh at 128 for five before the unbeaten duo of Karun and Shreyas bail the home side out

RANJI TROPHY

N. Sudarshan
SHIVAMOGGA

Honours were even at stumps on day one of the Ranji Trophy Elite Group-B match between Karnataka and Goa at the KSCA Navule Stadium here on Saturday.

After Goa opted to bowl and reduced the hosts to 128 for five, a 94-run association (148b) between Karun Nair (86 batting, 138b, 7x4, 1x6) and Shreyas Gopal (48 batting, 84b, 5x4, 1x6) ensured 222 runs on the board and a shot at a decent-sized total for Karnataka's four-man pace attack to defend. Until then, Karnataka was kept under a tight leash.

V. Koushik, formerly of Karnataka, was at his miserly best (18-7-24-2), took the prized scalp of skipper Mayank Agarwal (28, 69b, 4x4) and plucked a fine catch at square-leg to excise the dangerous Abhinav Manohar (37, 64b, 6x4).

If not for the rain-induced delayed start of 90 minutes, Koushik, primarily a swing bowler, might have had more assistance.

Despite the sun beating down, the 33-year-old bowled an unrelenting fourth-stump line as Karnataka went into lunch at 15 for no loss from 12 overs.

The speedster and Mayank then indulged in a cat-and-mouse game, with the captain repeatedly stepping out to negate the movement and Koushik, every now and then, asking the wicket-keeper to stand up to the stumps to keep the batter in check. Koushik had the final laugh, having Mayank caught at slip.

Karun, though, played the role of a senior statesman to perfection.

The 33-year-old started with a streaky edged double but was solid thereafter.

The two expertly steered fours to the third-man fence off Vijesh Prabhudesai and the towering six over left-arm spinner Darshan Misal's head showcased both his class and power.

Goa was hampered by off-spinner Mohit Redkar's limited role as he hobbled off in the 11th over after hurting his leg on a still-damp and heavy outfield.

It denied Goa control after Koushik and fellow fast-bowler Arjun Tendulkar (17-5-47-3) had done the heavy lifting. Karun and Shreyas duly capitalised.

Productive day: Karun, left, played the role of a senior statesman to perfection for the host while Koushik did well to scalp two. N. SUDARSHAN

> It was kind of bittersweet. Playing against Karnataka is a little awkward. But I picked up wickets, so I am happy.
> **V. KOUSHIK**
> Goa pacer

The scores:
Karnataka — 1st innings: Nikin Jose c Khutkar b Arjun 3, Mayank Agarwal c Kauthankar b Koushik 28, K.L. Shrijith c Dubhashi b Arjun 0, Karun Nair (batting) 86, R. Smaran c Tejrana b Koushik 3, Abhinav Manohar c Koushik b Arjun 37, Shreyas Gopal (batting) 48; Extras (b-5, lb-9, nb-3): 17; Total (for five wkts. in 69 overs): 222.
Fall of wickets: 1-18, 2-26, 3-47, 4-65, 5-128.
Goa bowling: Arjun 17-5-47-3, Koushik 18-7-24-2, Vijesh 14-3-57-0, Misal 11-0-56-0, Redkar 5-0-16-0, Suyash 4-0-8-0.
Toss: Goa.

RANJI SCORES – ROUND 2 (DAY 1)

Elite: Group A: At Vizianagaram: Baroda 230/6 in 79 overs (J.K. Singh 32, Vishnu Solanki 99 batting, A Seth 65 batting) K. Saiteja 4/28) vs. Andhra. **Toss:** Baroda.
Kanpur: Odisha 243 in 77.1 overs (Sandeep Pattanaik 53, Govinda Poddar 64, Sambit Baral 59 n.o., Rajesh Mohanty 48, Shivam Sharma 3/65) vs. Uttar Pradesh 17/0 in 7 overs. **Toss:** Odisha
Bengaluru: Tamil Nadu 399/2 in 90 overs (R. Vimal Khumar 189, Pradosh Ranjan Paul 156 batting, Andre Siddarth 30 batting) vs. Nagaland. **Toss:** Tamil Nadu
Nagpur: Jharkhand 119 foe no loss in 38 overs (Shikhar Mohan 60 batting, Sharandeep Singh 46 batting) vs. Vidarbha. **Toss:** Vidarbha.
Group B: Chandigarh: Maharashtra 313 in 85.5 overs (Arshin Kulkarni 50, R.D. Gaikwad 116, S.S. Nawale 66, R.S. Ghosh 31, Jagjit Singh Sandhu 3/39, Saini 3/55) vs. Chandigarh. **Toss:** Chandigarh.
Rajkot: Saurashtra 258/8 in 82.3 overs (Chirag Jani 82, Ansh Gosai 38, Ravindrasinh Jadeja 36, Kumar Kartikeya Singh 4/84) vs. Madhya Pradesh. **Toss:** Saurashtra.
New Chandigarh: Punjab 240/6 in 87 overs (Harnoor Singh 126 batting, Salil Arora 36) vs. Kerala. **Toss:** Punjab.
Group C: Kolkata: Bengal 244/7 in 72 overs (Sudip Kumar Gharami 56, Abishek Porel 51, Sumanta Gupta 58 batting, S.A. Desai 3/55) vs. Gujarat. **Toss:** Gujarat.
Tinsukia: Assam 103 in 17.2 overs (Pradyun Saikia 52, Riyan Parag 36, A.P. Sharma 5/46, Mohit Jangra 3/5) & 56/5 in 21 overs vs. Services 108 in 29.2 overs (Irfan Ali 51 n.o., Riyan Parag 5/25 & Rahul Singh 4/44). **Toss:** Assam.
Lahli: Tripura 126 in 48.1 overs (Sridam Paul 34, Swapnil Singh 44, Mikhil Kahsyap 4/34, Parth Vats 3/14) vs. Haryana 155/8 in 39 overs (Dheeru Singh 40, Yashvardhan Dalal 34 batting, Swapnil Singh 5/66). **Toss:** Tripura.
Ramnagar: Railways 233/4 in 89 overs (Vivek Singh 44, Mohammad Saif 99 batting, B.H. Merai 44 batting) vs. Uttarakhand. **Toss:** Railways.
Group D: Puducherry: Hyderabad 255/1 in 70 overs (Tanmay Agarwal 36 retd. hurt, Abhirath Reddy 35, Rahul Singh Gahlaut 114 batting, K. Himateja 62 batting) vs. Pondicherry. **Toss:** Hyderabad.
Mumbai: Mumbai 251/5 in 84 overs (Ajinkya Rahane 118 retd. hurt, S.D. Lad 80, vs. Chhattisgarh. **Toss:** Chhattisgarh.
Srinagar: Rajasthan 152 in 52.5 overs (M.K. Lomror 37 n.o., Kartik 32, Sunil Kumar 4/32, Auqib Nabi 3/29) vs. Jammu & Kashmir 66/2 in 24 overs. **Toss:** Jammu & Kashmir.
New Delhi: Delhi 306/4 in 86 overs (Arpit Rana 64, Sanat Sangwan 79, Yash Dhull 61, Ayush Doseja 51 batting, Sumit Mathur 32 batting) vs. Himachal Pradesh. **Toss:** Himachal Pradesh.
Plate: Shillong: Sikkim 310/6 in 87 overs (A.B. Rajera 51, Gurinder Singh 129, Kranthi Kumar 87 batting, Akash Kumar 4/69) vs. Meghalaya. **Toss:** Meghalaya.
Nadiad: Manipur 300/5 in 90 overs (Ulenyai Khwairakpam 42, M. Ronald 41, Johnson 41, K. Priyojit 134 batting) vs. Bihar. **Toss:** Manipur.
Ahmedabad: Arunachal Pradesh 187 in 65 overs (Siddharth Balodi 35, Marema 3/47) vs. Mizoram 106/1 in 25 overs (Armaan Jaffer 80 batting). **Toss:** Mizoram.

Sanjana clinches her second gold

Press Trust of India
RANCHI

Eighteen-year-old Sanjana Singh claimed her second gold, winning the women's 1,500m as India scooped seven of the 11 yellow metals on offer in the SAAF senior athletics on Saturday.

Sanjana clocked 4m, 25.36s to beat Sri Lanka's W.K.L. Arachch Nimali (4:25.52). Kajal Kanwade was third with 4:26.21.

India continued to top the table with 12 gold, 14 silver and seven bronze.

The Sri Lankan men's 4x100m team clocked a meet record 39.99s, ahead of India's 40.65s. The India women's 4x100m relay team of Tamanna, M.V. Jilna, Sudeshna Shivankar and Sakshi Chavan timed 44.93s to finish second behind Sri Lanka.

In men's 1500m, Arjun Waskale (3m, 54.58s) won the gold. R Manav won the men's 110m hurdles with a meet record 13.78s. In the women's 100m hurdles K. Nandhini won gold in a meet record time of 13.56s. Moumita Mondal finished second in 13.81s.

Red Bishop expected to score in Mysore Derby - 2025

MYSURU: Red Bishop, who has been well tuned, is expected to score in the season's blue riband Mysore Derby - 2025 (2,000m), the feature event of the races to be held here on Sunday (Oct 26)

There will be no false rails

1 ROYAL CALCUTTA TURF CLUB TROPHY (Div. II), (1,100m), rated 20 to 45, 5-y-o & over, 1.00 p.m.: 1. Planet Super (6) Asirvatham 60, 2. Sheer Bliss (4) Akshay Kumar 60, 3. Astapor (-) (-) 59.5, 4. Sunway Lagoon (7) H. Rahul 59.5, 5. Chisox (9) Aleemuddin 57.5, 6. Maduva Thalaivi (8) Prabhu Kumar 56, 7. Meghann (-) (-) 56, 8. Sarvottam (5) Ankit Pal 55, 9. Sling Shot (2) Suhas K 53.5 and 10. N R I Millennium (3) I. Chisty 53.

1. SHEER BLISS, 2. N R I MILLENNIUM, 3. CHISOX

2 DELHI RACE CLUB TROPHY (1,200m), rated 00 to 25, 1.30: 1. Glowing Moonlights (6) R. Ravi 62, 2. Amazing Storm (5) Aleemuddin 60.5, 3. Davids Delight (10) Noorulla 60.5, 4. Nimble Spirit (3) Faiz 60, 5. True Gold (11) Vishwa 59, 6. Czarevitch (7) Abhishek Mhatre 57, 7. N R I Gold (12) Pavan 57, 8. Emeraldo (2) S.G. Prasad 56.5, 9. Exemplary Blues (4) Arvind Kumar 56.5, 10. Cool Winter (8) A. Bandal 56, 11. Knotty Methods (9) Gautham Raj 54 and 12. Recreator (1) Vinod Shinde 51.5.

1. TRUE GOLD, 2. COOL WINTER, 3. RECREATOR

3 ROYAL CALCUTTA TURF CLUB TROPHY (Div. I), (1,100m), rated 20 to 45, 5-y-o & over, 2.00: 1. Smile Of Beauty (6) Prabhu Kumar 62.5, 2. Choice (3) Faiz 62, 3. Master Way (8) Asirvatham 59, 4. Solo Prince (10) V.R. Jagdeesh 59, 5. Able One (7) P. Mani 58.5, 6. D Roman Power (2) Salman Khan 58.5, 7. Amazing Attraction (4) Aleemuddin 58, 8. Immortal Beauty (1) Suraj Narredu 58, 9. SD Queen (-) (-) 58 and 10. Secret Shadow (5) Ankit Pal 56.

1. IMMORTAL BEAUTY, 2. AMAZING ATTRACTION, 3. SMILE OF BEAUTY

4 MADRAS RACE CLUB TROPHY (Div. I), (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 2.30: 1. N R I Victory (7) Pavan 62.5, 2. Knotty Affair (5) Antony 62, 3. Bellavita (4) P. Trevor 61.5, 4. Ancient History (3) Neeraj 60, 5. Sira (10) Hindu Singh 58.5, 6. Natural One (1) Vivek G 58, 7. Absolute Katrina (8) K. Sai Kiran 57, 8. Lords Grace (2) A.R. Pradeep 55.5, 9. Victoriaraya (9) V.R. Jagdeesh 55.5, 10. Higher Love (12) B. Darshan 54.5, 11. Supreme Success (6) R.N. Darshan 54.5 and 12. Golden Beast (11) Koshi Kumar 53.

1. BELLAVITA, 2. ANCIENT HISTORY, 3. KNOTTY AFFAIR

5 ROYAL WESTERN INDIA TURF CLUB TROPHY (1,200m), rated 40 to 65, 5-y-o & over, 3.00: 1. Square Cut (6) Ramesh Kumar 60, 2. Agera (5) Anish 59.5, 3. Bezawada Sultan (11) S. Sachin 59, 4. Mark One (7) Aleemuddin 58.5, 5. Maple Leaf (10) Pavan 57, 6. Golden Time (4) Vivek G 56, 7. Moonlight Queen (3) P. Siddaraju 56, 8. Stravinsky (-) (-) 55, 9. Super Sapphire (1) G. Praveen 54.5, 10. Magical Circle (12) L.A. Rozario 54, 11. Jasmine (2) Abhishek Mhatre 53 and 12 Toscana (9) S.G. Prasad 53.

1. GOLDEN TIME, 2. MAGIC CIRCLE, 3. MAPLE LEAF

6 BANGALORE TURF CLUB TROPHY (1,200m), rated 80 & above, 3.30: 1. Aldgate (1) Aleemuddin 62, 2. Iron Clad (5) Pavan 62, 3. Decacorn (2) K. Sai Kiran 58.5, 4. Don Carlos (3) P. Trevor 53, 5. Knotty Blush (6) Akshay Kumar 53 and 6. Gold Kite (4) Hindu Singh 50.5.

1. KNOTTY BLUSH, 2. ALDGATE

7 MYSORE DERBY - 2025 (2,000m), 3-y-o (Terms), 4.00: 1. Mahler (2) Vivek G 56, 2. Matisse (3) Shreyas 56, 3. Red Bishop (1) P. Trevor 56, 4. Unforgettable Star (6) Yash Narredu 56, 5. Maana (4) Antony 54.5, 6. Miracle Star (7) Suraj Narredu 54.5 and 7. Moon Star (5) Akshay Kumar 54.5.

1. RED BISHOP, 2. MIRACLE STAR

8 HYDERABAD RACE CLUB TROPHY (1,400m), rated 40 to 65, 4.30: 1. Grace (8) P. Siddaraju 60, 2. Amazing Imrarifa (6) S.G. Prasad 60, 3. Monterio (1) L.A. Rozario 58.5, 4. Knotty Scotty (11) Antony 58, 5. Fortis (7) Akshay Kumar 57, 6. Mind Games (3) Pavan 57, 7. Eclipse Pulse (10) Asirvatham 56.5, 8. Eternal Glory (9) R.N. Darshan 56.5, 9. Seeking Alpha (12) S. Imran 55.5, 10. Sherouk (5) Vinod Shinde 54.5, 11. Alexandros (4) K. Sai Kiran 51.5 and 12. Sandal Queen (2) Faiz 51.

1. KNOTTY SCOTTY, 2. MONTERIO, 3. FORTIS

9 MADRAS RACE CLUB TROPHY (Div. II), (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 5.00: 1. Star Symphony (10) P. Ajeeth Kumar 60, 2. Vafadar (1) I. Chisty 60, 3. Tefillah (7) Akshay Kumar 59.5, 4. Always For You (6) Faiz 59, 5. Breeze Bluster (12) R. Girish 59, 6. C R Seven (-) (-) 59, 7. Glory Of Heaven (11) B. Dharshan 59, 8. Wild Child (8) Sai Kiran 59, 9. Purple Martini (9) Rajesh K 58, 10. Ankush (2) Salman Khan 57.5, 11. Nizbati Queen (5) Gautam Raj 57.5, and 12. Noble Pursuit (3) H. Rahul 57.5.

1. TEFILLAH, 2. STAR SYMPHONY, 3. VAFADAR

Day's best: **KNOTTY SCOTTY**

Double: **BELLAVITA - KNOTTY BLUSH**

Jkt: 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9; Mini Jkt: 6, 7, 8 & 9; Tr (i): 1, 2 & 3; (ii): 4, 5 & 6; (iii): 7, 8 & 9.

Shamrock claims feature event

MYSURU: S. Narredu trained Shamrock (Suraj Narredu up) won the Mysore Race Club Anniversary Cup (1,400m), the chief event of the races held here on (Oct 25).

The winner is owned by Mr. M. Ravi, Mr. Daulat Chhabaria, Mr. K. Kaliyaperumal & Mrs. R. Chellam.

1. HASTHINAPURA PLATE (1,400M): ALLURING BEAUTY (P. Ajeeth Kumar) 1, D Admiral (Hindu Singh) 2, Break Away (Faiz) 3 and Pette's Choice (Prabhu Kumar) 4. 2-1/2, 2-1/2 and 3/4. 1m, 27.09s. Rs. 28 (w), 11, 24 and 13 (p), SHP: 88, FP: 414, Q: 266, THP: 28. Tri: 1,414 & 378, Ext: 2,762 (carried Over). Favourite: Alluring Beauty. Not run: Gentleman's Word and Astrologer.

Owner: Mrs. Namrataa Rakesh. Trainer: Rakesh.

2. SRI C. SASHACHALAM MEMORIAL TROPHY: GEMINI (J. Chinoy) 1, Double Vision (Pavan) 2, Tigerking (P. Mani) 3 and Golden Bird (S. Imran) 4. 1, 1-1/2 and 2-3/4. 1m, 25.76s. Rs. 17 (w), 16, 15 & 22 (p), SHP: 30, FP: 26, Q: 14, THP: 57. Tri: 119 & 117, Ext: 1,445 & 867. Favourite: Gemini. Owner: Mr. Suchit Jayaraj Shah. Trainer: M. Bobby.

3. R.M. PUTTANA MEMORIAL TROPHY: SILVER QUEST (H. Rahul) 1, Jade Mountain (Vinod Shinde) 2, Prince Of Wales (J. Chinoy) 3 and Razzmatazz (P. Kiran Rai) 4. 1/2, shd and 3/4. 1m, 12.33s. Rs. 20 (w), 10, 54 & 18 (p), SHP: 297, FP: 1,904, Q: 1,123, THP: 43. Tri: 3,098 & 498, Ext: 17,200 & 7371. Favourite: Silver Quest. Owner: Mr. H.S. Chandre Gowda. Trainer: Vishal Yadav.

4. K.T. SHAMAIAH GOUDA MEMORIAL TROPHY: SEA OF ADVENTURE (Salman Khan) 1, Klimt (K. Sai Kiran) 2, Ultimate Blues (N. Arvind Kumar) 3 and Aurele (Abhishek Mhatre) 4. 2-1/4, 1-3/4 and 2. 1m, 24.53s. Rs. 121 (w), 33, 14 & 18 (p), SHP: 27, FP: 406, Q: 122, THP: 44. Tri: 1,374 & 1,392, Ext: 4,606 & 2,961. Favourite: Klimt. Owner: Mrs. Namratha B Salvi. Trainer: Bipin V Salvi.

5. H.P. VISWANATHAN MEMORIAL TROPHY: IRISH COFFEE (L.A. Rozario) 1, Kanya Rashi (Antony Raj) 2, D Gold Star (K. Sai Kiran) 3 and Forseti (Akshay Kumar) 4. Shd, 1-1/4 and lnk 1m, 24.21s. Rs. 48 (w), 18, 13 & 29 (p), SHP: 37, THP: FP: 995, Q: 349, THP: 62. Tri: 33,668 & 7,214, Ext: 20,400 (carried over), Favourite: Divine Art. Not run: Auspicious Queen. Owner: Dr. C.N. Devayya. Trainer: Pradeep.

6. MYSORE RACE CLUB ANNIVERSARY CUP: SHAMROCK (Suraj Narredu) 1, Siege Courageous (Antony Raj) 2, Snowfall (Yash Narreu) 3 and Monteverdi (Hindu Singh) 4. Shd, 3-1/4 and 4-1/2. 1m, 23.14s. Rs. 43 (w), 11, 11 & 10 (p), SHP: 41, THP: 28. FP: 68, Q: 22, Tri: 122 & 66, Ext: 351 & 196. Favourite: Siege Courageous. Owners: Mr. M. Ravi, Mr. Daulat Chhabria, Mr. K. Kaliyaperumal & Mrs. R. Chellam. Trainer: S. Narredu.

7. BOTTOLANDA MILTOO CHENGAPPA MEMORIAL TROPHY: MYSTIC DIVINE (Faiz) 1, Freedom Touch (Pavan) 2, Baashha (S. Sachin) 3 and Anigraha (Hindu Singh) 4. Hd, 5-3/4 and 3-1/4. 1m, 38.06s. Rs. 51 (w), 16, 15 & 30 (p), SHP: 34, THP: 56. FP: 308, Q: 203, Tri: 2,480 & 2,551, Ext: 8,578 & 3,676. Favourite: Yukikaze. Not run: Invincible and Serdar.

Owners: Mr. Gooddera Vasanta rep. Nippon Bloodstock & Racing Pvt.Ltd. Trainer: C D Monnappa.

8. SHARAN LAKSHMANAN MEMORIAL TROPHY: ONE DIAMOND (Faiz) 1, Dali's Gold (L.A. Rozario) 2, Seiko Katsu (C. Umesh) 3 and Natural Look (Ankit Pal) 4. Shd, 3/4 and 1/2. 1m, 13.84s. Favourite: Natural Look. Rs. Rs. 40 (w), 10, 15 & 46 (p), SHP: 41, THP: 80. FP: 339, Q: 230, Tri: 9,692 & 2,076, Ext: 11,942 (Carried over). Not run: Kingsland and Golden Stride.

Owners: Mr. K.B. Appaiah, Mr. K.K. Belliappa & Mr. Cheriyan Abraham. Trainer: C D Monnappa.

Jkt: Rs. 39,1,197 (carried over); Mjkt: 3, 311 (carried over); Tr: (i): 263 (two tkts); (ii): 246 (carried over); (iii): 2,290 (one tkt).

Sunderland upends Chelsea; Bayern maintains its winning run

EURO LEAGUES

Agencies
LONDON

Sunderland dealt Chelsea a 2-1 home defeat in the Premier League when substitute Chemsdine Talbi curled in a low shot deep into stoppage time on Saturday.

In the Bundesliga, Bayern Munich scored three goals in the last half hour to win 3-0 at a 10-man Borussia Moenchengladbach on Saturday, staying five points clear at the top of the table.

Stunner: Talbi silences the Chelsea crowd with this late winner for Sunderland. REUTERS

The results: Premier League: Chelsea 1 (Garnacho 40 lost to Sunderland 2 (Isidor 22, Talbi 90+3); Newcastle 2 (Murphy 18, Guimaraes 90) bt Fulham 1 (Lukic 56).

Bundesliga: Eintracht Frankfurt 2 (Burkardt 35, 55) bt St Pauli 0; Augsburg 0 lost to RB Leipzig 6 (Diomande 10, Romulo 18, Nusa 22, Baumgartner 38, Ouedraogo 56, Lukeba 65).

Borussia M'Gladbach 0 lost to Bayern Munich 3 (Kimmich 64, Guerreiro 69, Karl 80).